

Shamir survives no-confidence vote

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's month-old Israeli government passed its first survival test on Monday by defeating parliamentary no-confidence motions in a 60-51 vote. Five legislators abstained. The motions by five leftist opposition parties accused the government of failing to provide enough housing and an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants and challenged its plans to let Jewish settlers operate a "civil guard" in the occupied territories. The outcome was sealed hours before the vote when an opposition member of parliament agreed to refrain from voting to effect the absence of a hospitalized legislator from Shamir's rightist Likud party. Had it been necessary, Likud planned to bring Sarah Doron, 48, from a Tel Aviv hospital where she was in intensive care after major heart surgery Sunday. Shamir won a vote of confidence with 62 votes four weeks ago, creating the most right-wing government in Israeli history.

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King visits army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Monday visited one of the formations of the Third Royal Armoured Division in its training site where he was received by the commanders of the division and the formation and several of the division's officers. After a briefing on the development of the training process the King visited various units taking part in the training.

Abu Taleb meets French commander

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb received in his office Monday the commander of the French navy in the Indian Ocean and discussed with him issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by the chief of staff's assistant for administrative affairs, the French ambassador and military attaché in Amman. The French commander arrived in Amman Saturday on a several-day visit to the Kingdom.

Iraqi team returns home from Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — A Red Crescent delegation, the first Iraqi team to visit Iran since the outbreak of the Gulf war in 1980, returned to Baghdad Sunday after delivering relief aid for Iranian earthquake victims. An Iraqi official said Monday the team had flown to Tehran with blankets, tents, clothes, food and detergents. A second Iraqi aircraft carried medicines and medical equipment to the Iranian capital after an earthquake killed about 40,000 people in northwest Iran in June. Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Friday thanked his Iraqi counterpart Saddam Hussein for the relief supplies.

PLO wants private EC investment

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wants private European investment in the occupied territories, the head of the organisation's economic department said in an interview published Monday. Abu Ala, a leading member of the mainstream group Fatah, was speaking to the PLO news agency Wafa about the European Community's (EC) latest economic measures in favour of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The EC summit in Dublin last month decided to encourage exports from the occupied territories, increase aid and assign an EC representative there. Abu Ala said the measures showed the EC understood the need to disengage the Israeli and Palestinian economies and strengthen Palestinian economic institutions. This would protect Palestinian society from Israeli attempts to dilute or annex it, he added.

Ryzhkov to head Lithuanian talks

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union took its first concrete step towards negotiating with Lithuania Monday by naming a team of top representatives for the talks on the republic's bid for independence. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev appointed Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov to head the 22-member Soviet team, according to the official TASS news agency. The delegation was ordered "to carry out negotiations" with Lithuanian officials over the republic's proposed moratorium on activities designed to implement its March 11 declaration of independence.

Israel's satellite burns up in space

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's second experimental satellite reentered the atmosphere and burned up Monday after a "highly successful" mission, its makers said. The Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), which built the Ofek-2 satellite, and its predecessor Ofek-1, described the mission to test two-way communications as an "unqualified success." The satellite's 97 days in space exceeded initial predictions by 40 days. Ofek-1, which made Israel the first Middle East space power when it was launched in September 1988, orbited the earth for 118 days.

General strike marks 31 months of intifada

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem shut themselves inside their homes Monday to mark 31 months of their uprising.

The Unified Leadership of the Uprising, which is backed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the fundamentalist Hamas movement called the general strike in their regular leaflets.

Public and private transport ground to a halt and labourers stopped work in Israel as the strike call was honoured in all major towns in the occupied territories and in Arab Jerusalem.

In the Gaza Strip, 18 Palestinian teenagers were treated in hospitals after being beaten by Israeli soldiers during clashes Monday, residents said.

Palestinians also reported that a local resident who was stabbed by unidentified assailants Saturday night died from his wounds the following day.

Palestinians said it was not clear if Abdul-Kader Hania, 40, was killed by Palestinians as a suspected informer for Israel.

Expulsion case

Israel's supreme court has given the army 60 days to say why two Palestinians, expelled in the

1970s, should not be allowed to return to the occupied territories, a legal aide said Monday.

The case could have significance for U.S.-backed Middle East peace efforts.

Israel has so far resisted U.S. proposals to allow expelled Palestinians to participate in preliminary peace negotiations, saying it could lead to indirect involvement by the PLO. There have been reports, however, of a possible compromise involving expelled Palestinians who were repatriated.

Fatima Sanduka, an aide to Israeli attorney Leah Tsemel, who represents the expelled Palestinians, said the court order issued Sunday gave the military command in the West Bank a two-month deadline to respond.

The court also gave the army the alternative of submitting the issue to a military advisory board. Sanduka said in a telephone interview.

One of the expelled Palestinians is Dr. Alfred Tubasi, 62, a dentist and former member of the Ramallah city council in the West Bank. He was expelled to Lebanon in 1974 for alleged activities with a PLO faction.

Tubasi now lives in Amman, where he is suffering from a kidney ailment, according to his brother, Emil.

The second plaintiff is Majed

Salameh, also of Ramallah. He was expelled to Jordan in 1971 as a suspected activist with the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction. The Hebrew daily Haaretz, which reported the case, said the army has refused past appeals by both men.

Newspaper shut down

An Israeli-Arab newspaper editor accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government of impeding freedom of expression Monday after the interior ministry ordered his newspaper shut.

The weekly Sawt Al Hak Wal Huriyah (The Voice of Truth and Freedom) was ordered closed on Sunday for three months on the grounds it had incited violence against the Jewish state.

It is published by the fundamentalist Islamic movement in Israel which made major election gains among Israeli Arabs in the last municipal elections.

A ministry statement said the newspaper, first published in October 1989, served as a voice for Hamas.

Editor Khaled Mahana dismissed the charges as "completely unfounded."

"The closure order is but one of many restrictions which the extreme right is taking against our writers, poets and journalists," he told Reuters.

Israelis bomb Hizbollahis again, cast doubts over hostage release

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted southern bases of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah for a second day Monday, killing 12 people and raising fears the violence would sabotage the anticipated release of a Western hostage.

Police said those killed were eight civilians and four combatants of Hizbollah. Twenty-eight other people, including 10 fighters, were wounded.

A police spokesman said four U.S.-built F-4 Phantom fighter bombers mounted two bombing runs, 10 minutes apart, on Lowitah and Melita in South Lebanon.

The first attack was staged at 10:40 a.m. (0740 GMT), about 22 hours after the Israeli jets had flattened a Hizbollah base, three kilometres to the south.

Later in the afternoon, Israeli artillerymen in the so-called

security zone in South Lebanon traded heavy artillery fire with Hizbollah positions north of the buffer, police and United Nations sources said.

Tehran Radio said the Israeli air raids appeared aimed at undermining efforts to free a Western hostage held in Lebanon.

Security sources in Lebanon said kidnappers had contacted the Syrian army commands in west Beirut Monday to arrange the release of a European hostage, believed to be Irishman Brian Keenan.

"Experience shows that whenever the possibility of the release of one or several hostages in Lebanon has arisen, the Zionist regime tries by attacking bases of Islamic groups to get involved in the act and defeat it if it considers it against its interest," Tehran Radio said.

The commentary backed up hopes first raised by the official news agency IRNA at the weekend that a European hostage would be released by his Lebanese captors soon.

A pro-Syrian militia source in Lebanon predicted he would be Keenan, 39, a teacher of English holding dual Irish and British nationality who was kidnapped in west Beirut in April 1986.

Kidnappers freed Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed in April following efforts by Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who wants to end the hostage issue and improve Iran's relations with the West.

Israeli raids against Hizbollah targets preceded Polhill's release. But Tehran complained that the United States had failed to show goodwill in return in the

(Continued on page 3)

Velayati visits Kuwait to boost rapprochement

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived Monday seeking to boost bilateral relations that had faltered after outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war 10 years ago.

Velayati's counterpart, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, and a line of government officials greeted the Iranian guest at the airport.

The two foreign ministers held a first round of talks over a luncheon shortly after Velayati's arrival. They scheduled more meetings during the two-day visit, the first by such a ranking Iranian official in eight years.

Official statements also said Velayati was to deliver a message to the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Contents of the message were not disclosed, but it was widely believed to contain appreciation for relief supplies Kuwait had sent to Iran after the June 21 killer earthquake. The tremor killed 40,000 people, injured 60,000 and left half a million inhabitants in northwestern provinces homeless.

Velayati was the last Iranian official to visit Kuwait in 1982, when he attended a meeting of the coordination bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement that focused on the Palestinian problem.

During the eight-year Gulf war, Iran accused Kuwait and

other Gulf Arab states of backing Iraq.

In retaliation, Iran fired missiles into Kuwait and attacked its oil export routes through the Gulf. It also was blamed for a series of terrorist attacks carried out by Kuwaitis backed by the Islamic republic.

Just before Velayati's arrival, the Kuwaiti Emir welcomed the latest developments in efforts to resolve the Iran-Iraq dispute (see page 2).

In an arrival statement, Velayati said that "experts from the two sides are continuing their meetings to develop a common ground" before an Iran-Iraq summit could be held.

He said his talks in Kuwait would tackle "bilateral relations, regional cooperation and international issues of mutual interest."

"Iran and Kuwait have taken positive steps to develop bilateral cooperation, including the exchange of ambassadors," he said.

"We look forward to taking more positive steps in the future."

Velayati said: "We attach extreme importance to our relations with our brethren in the region, particularly the Gulf Cooperation Council countries."

Before leaving Tehran, Velayati also noted in a statement that oil was "a strong common interest between Iran and Kuwait."

Soviets agree to change party leadership structure

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Communist Party voted Monday to elect an expanded politburo and retain the post of general secretary at its head.

The 28th party congress voted by 3,647 to 475 to reject proposed changes in the leadership structure which would have created the new post of party chairman at the head of a presidium.

In a move which strengthened the position of Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev, the congress voted to bring the party leaders from the 15 republics into the politburo.

This would dilute the Moscow-based character of the politburo, which party sources said would have about 23 full members compared with 12 now.

Gorbachev, 59, who is state president and party general secretary, is widely expected to be re-elected party leader later this week.

The changes provided for the new post of a deputy to the general secretary who would also be a full politburo member and, like the party chief, would be elected directly by the congress.

Party sources said four or five other politburo members would be elected by the party's Central Committee to take over specialist portfolios such as ideology or economic policy.

Arab foreign ministers may meet July 14

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab foreign ministers may hold emergency talks as early as Saturday to discuss a U.S. decision to suspend contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the United Arab Emirates news agency WAM said.

It said the ministers were trying to get the meeting brought forward to July 14 from July 16 at the request of some states but did not say which.

Last month, Washington suspended an 18-month-old dialogue with the PLO because it had refused to denounce a sea-borne attack on Israel by one of its factions, the Palestine Liberation Front.

Arab diplomats in Tunis said Iraq had asked to bring the meeting forward because it has its national day on July 17.

They said they expected Arab states to agree to the change but Arab League sources said consultations were still under way.

In an interview published Monday, PLO Executive Committee member Suheila Najaib said the PLO wanted the ministers to carry out decisions taken at the Baghdad summit in May.

(Continued on page 3)

'Up to 12 million Soviets could become Israelis'

TEL AVIV (R) — As many as 12 million Soviet citizens could become Israelis under the Jewish state's immigration laws, former Soviet Jewish dissident Natan Sharansky said Monday.

The figure is far above estimates of the Jewish population of the Soviet Union but a 1970 amendment to the Israeli law of return extended the right to immigrate to Israel to non-Jewish spouses, children and grandchildren of Jews.

"Demographic experts say there may be 10 to 12 million," Sharansky told a conference on the current influx of Soviet Jews. "Of course 80 per cent of these are not Jewish and this is just a way to leave the Soviet Union and avoid civil war or whatever will happen," said Sharansky, now an immigration activist.

Israel's current population is around 4.5 million, including 3.7 million Jews.

More than 50,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel in the first half of 1990 and one million are forecast to move to Israel within five years. Sharansky, who was released from a Soviet prison in exchange for a Russian spy in 1986, said about 30 per cent of those now arriving were not actually Jews.

Traditional religious law recognises only those with a Jewish mother as Jewish, but the definition of the "law of return" is much broader. Arguments between religious factions over who is a Jew have torn at Israeli society.

However, controversy over the arrival of non-Jews from the Soviet Union has been submerged in the euphoria over the largest wave of immigration since the early years of the Jewish state.

Economic summit opens with leaders sharply split

HOUSTON (R) — The United States stepped up pressure on its allies Monday to stop a headlong dash to send aid to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as leaders of the seven largest industrialised nations began their first summit since the end of the cold war.

It also urged the seven to settle their differences at the Houston economic summit on ways to slash the \$245 billion that major nations spend each year to protect their farmers' incomes.

This 16th annual gathering of the United States, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Japan and Canada will take stock of economic frictions that are increasingly irritating now that East-West tensions have declined.

Dominant talks at Rice University, a prestigious university with a campus modelled on Venetian courtyards, will be

efforts to help Gorbachev implement his troubled reform programme, move world trade talks forward and clean up the global environment.

Houston, billing itself as an international city in the muggy flatlands of southeast Texas, has given the summit participants and 4,000 visiting journalists a grand "down-home" welcome with rodeo events, a barbecue dinner and country music entertainment.

Before officially opening the summit U.S. President George Bush held separate talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Complimented Kohl on West Germany's victory over Argentina in Sunday in the World Cup soccer final.

West Germany and France would like to grant direct finan-

Crown Prince meets Gonzalez

MADRID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Monday reviewed relations between Jordan and Spain, the Middle East question and the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region. The meeting was attended by Jordan's Ambassador to Spain Shahr Bak.

Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath were guests of honour at a banquet held in Madrid Sunday by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain.

The Prince and Princess had arrived here earlier in the day to take part in a three-day Arab-Iberian-Latin American conference in Seville to discuss cultural relations and cooperation in socio-political fields.

Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin is among Jordanian and Arab participants attending the conference along with politicians and prominent economists and scholars from Latin America, Spain and the Arab World.

Prince Hassan, in cooperation with former Colombian president Belisario Betancour is submitting two working papers on cultural, socio-political subjects, while other participants' papers deal with cultural affairs. The conference was to open later Monday.

The conference is organised by the Club of Rome to mark the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. It aims at enhancing political and cultural cooperation between the Arab World and Latin American countries.

The Crown Prince arrived in Spain from Britain after receiving an honorary doctorate from Durham University in northern England.

Albanian exodus poised to begin

VIENNA (AP) — Czechoslovakia sent its presidential aircraft to Tirana Monday to get 51 Albanians, and a U.N. envoy tried to negotiate safe passage for some 5,000 others trying to flee, officials said.

The hardline Communist leadership in Albania announced a government shakeup shortly after Czechoslovak President Vclav Havel's aircraft left to pick up the first group of asylum-seeking Albanians being allowed to leave the country.

The government changes, the second in three days, appeared to reflect an attempt to lessen popular disillusionment within the last hardline communist country in Eastern Europe.

Monday's shakeup was restricted to ministers dealing

with the economy and seemed calculated to appease discontent over shortages of food and other problems with Albania's centralised economy.

Many of the more than 5,000 Albanians crowding foreign embassies in Tirana in an attempt to emigrate have said they seek a better economic life abroad.

Embassy workers continued Monday to try to feed and care for the refugees amid deteriorating sanitary conditions. A baby girl was born at the West German embassy compound over the weekend, delivered by a West German doctor who flew to Tirana early last week to help in the growing crisis.

A U.N. envoy sent by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was representing

the West German, Italian, French and Greek embassies in talks with the Albanian government, said Hans Schumacher, a German Foreign Ministry spokesman in Bonn. Those embassies have sheltered the bulk of the more than 5,000 refugees trying to leave Tirana.

In addition to the approximately 3,000 occupying the West German compound, there were about 1,000 people Monday in the Italian embassy, about 500 in the French and about 30 in the Greek compound, Schumacher said.

The asylum-seekers, some dodging police bullets, began taking refuge on June 28. Albanian authorities pledged Saturday that the asylum-seekers would receive travel papers and be allowed to leave.

Kuwaiti emir opens transitional assembly

KUWAIT (AP) — The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, inaugurated Monday the 75-member National Council and projected confidence that it would be the forerunner of a Western-style parliament for Kuwait in the 1990s.

"This council will open a new page in cooperation between the legislative and executive bodies that will provide a qualitative change in the 1990s, opening the way for the desired parliamentary system of the future," said the emir, to loud clapping from the attendants.

The press hailed the convening of the council as "a day of light and new life" and "a day of responsibility and challenge."

Elections for 50 of the council members in June were boycotted by pro-democracy activists who decried it as a toothless legislature that is unconstitutional and insist on the return of the 50-member, wholly elected parliament.

The emir appointed the remaining 25 members of the council which he designated in an April 22 decree as a transitional body that would lay down "controls" to avert the acrimony that led to the suspension of the parliament twice in a decade.

Spurred by last year's dramatic changes in Eastern Europe, the activists, led by some 30 members of the dissolved parliament, began campaigning in autumn for its return, precipitating government clampdowns on their political rallies and a nationwide dialogue by the crown prince and prime minister that led to the idea of the

transitional council. The emir expressed satisfaction with the dialogue and with the electorate's turnout to vote for the 50 elected members "without hesitation or lukewarmness." The turnout was officially estimated at 62 per cent of an electorate list of some 60,000.

"Let us evaluate the outcome of the past stage and take our efforts to higher levels," said the emir. "Let this council be a force of unity not divisions. Let cooperation with the executive authority flourish to allow for multi-dimensional perspectives on the issues at stake with the major objective being Kuwait's security, stability and progress."

He also said "it is not a matter of one school of thought overcoming the other but of progress overcoming all," urging wisdom and perseverance and warning against personal conflicts and account-taking which he said "could be cloaked with claims of national interest."

He said that proper planning for the future was not a voluntary affair but a dictate of the present international situation where the scientific gap among states was widening.

The emir has given the transitional legislature a maximum four-year period for the task, but elected members of the council said earlier they will push for reducing the period to two years.

Kuwait, a wealthy nation of 1.7 million, prided itself on being the only Arab state of the Gulf that enjoyed a freely elected 50-member parliament since inde-

pendence in the early 1960s. Neighbouring Bahrain also had one after its own independence in 1971, but it was dissolved in 1975.

The Kuwaiti parliament was suspended in 1976 after vitriolic criticism by the deputies of cabinet ministers and was restored in 1980. In 1986, the same conditions prompted Sheikh Jaber to suspend the parliament once more at the height of the Gulf war.

Iran, accusing Kuwait of abetting the Iraqi war effort, fired missiles at Kuwait's coastal regions, attacked Kuwait's vital oil shipping lanes. It was accused of masterminding a series of terrorist acts within the country.

But relations between Kuwait and Iran began improving as soon as the Iranian leadership accepted a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire to the Gulf war in July 1988. The emir's inauguration of the council coincided with the scheduled visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, the first such visit since 1982.

Sheikh Jaber welcomed the ongoing process between his two giant neighbours to turn the ceasefire into a lasting peace, and said he was confident this would have wider repercussions on the Arab and Islamic nations.

In his capacity as chairman of the 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the emir called for an end to inter-Islamic rifts that he said were bleeding the Islamic Nation. He made no direct reference to the rift between Iran and Saudi Arabia which was expected to be discussed with Velayati.



Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah

sed with Velayati. But he noted that the earthquake disaster in Iran, in which at least 40,000 died, and the more recent Mecca tunnel disaster in which 1,426 pilgrims died, were "cruel events that...revealed the true metal that has been covered under the differences of some time." Such cooperation should continue and lead to more Islamic cohesion, he said.

He praised the Palestinian struggle, castigating "big powers...for extending mere limitless promises" to the Palestinians while showering the other side, Israel, with material and moral support.

Meanwhile, the crown prince, chairing the weekly cabinet session over the weekend, reiterated confidence about lifting of the press censorship that was clamped with the suspension of parliament in 1986. He said that studies toward that end were in the preparation.

Kuwait also used to enjoy the most free-wheeling press in the Arab World, replacing Beirut after the outbreak of the Lebanese civil war 15 years ago.

Carter criticises U.S. decision to break PLO dialogue

DOHA (Petra) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said in remarks published Monday that the decision of the Bush administration to break its 18-month-old dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had set back efforts for peace in the Middle East.

In remarks published in the Qatari daily Al Rayah, Carter underlined the importance of continuing dialogue between the U.S. and all parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO.

The former president, who is currently visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was quoted as saying by Al Rayah that several leading members of the new right-wing government in Israel "do not support the Camp David agreement" between

Egypt and the Jewish state.

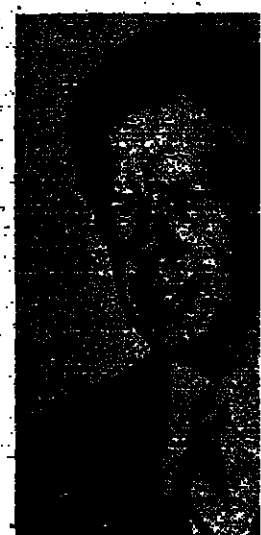
Carter, who served as president between 1976 and 1980, was the main force behind the Camp David agreement. He has said that proposals forwarded by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to initiate a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians as well as the Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories leading to "autonomy" for the Palestinians there were compatible with provisions of the Camp David agreement.

Meanwhile, reports in the UAE press said efforts were under way to revive the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arabic language daily Al Itihad said two Americans of Palestinian origin were involved in the efforts with

U.S. administration officials to resume the dialogue, which President George Bush suspended last month saying the PLO had not fulfilled an American demand that it denounce an aborted Palestinian commando raid on Israel and punish the perpetrators of the attack. The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), led by Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, carried out the thwarted attack.

According to Al Itihad, which attributed its information to informed Palestinian sources in Tunis, "a meeting will be held soon between Baker and two members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Edward Saïd and Ibrahim Abu Lughud, to discuss means to resume the U.S.-PLO dialogue."



Jimmy Carter

Baker has "agreed in principle" to the meeting, according to sources quoted by Al Itihad. Carter arrived in Abu Dhabi Sunday accompanied by He was received by U.A.E. President Sheikh Zayed Bin Nahayan later in the day.

Arens disbands forum for 'war of generals' against uprising

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Moshe Arens has disbanded an army group that mapped strategy to counter the Palestinian uprising, following fighting and leaks to the media, reports and officials said.

Israeli newspapers said Arens' decision came because of persistent leaks from the so-called "Territories Forum," which also is plagued by bitter rivalries.

Arens' move underscored tensions within the military establishment over how to deal with the 31-month uprising. The tensions have been fuelled, in part, by a contest for top posts.

The forum is made of chief of staff Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, senior army commanders from the occupied territories and the heads of military administration offices there. They met weekly on Fridays with the defence minister.

Arens' aide Dan Naveh confirmed the decision to suspend the forum meetings and said that military strategy decisions did not have to be made at organised meetings.

"What he (Arens) decided was that discussions on that subject will take place in different places with different people he will decide on," Naveh said in a telephone interview.

"The leaks did not help, but he would have decided this in any case," Naveh said.

He added that Arens wanted flexibility in his dealings with army leadership.

There have been a series of

news leaks on Arens' possible strategy for dealing with the uprising since he was appointed defence minister in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's new right-wing government last month.

One recent report, for instance, said Arens planned to reduce the army presence near Palestinian population centres in the occupied territories to build confidence among the Palestinians as a prelude to a political move.

The Hebrew daily Haaretz reported last week that Arens was considering "banishment," a form of internal exile, as a new way of punishing uprising leaders. In the past, Israel expelled uprising leaders from the occupied territories, drawing strong criticism from the United States and international human rights groups.

Haaretz reported Sunday that Arens reached his decision to disband the forum after a new plan to deal with stone throwers in Arab schools was leaked to the newspaper.

The proposal included moving high school classes to schools away from main roads, where stone throwing often occurs, and constructing walls and fences around some institutions.

There also has been sparring among the various generals, one of whom will likely replace Shomron as chief of staff when his term expires next year.

Israel Radio reported that Major-General Natan Vilnai, head of the army's southern command

and the top military officer in charge of the Gaza Strip, was disturbed at sniping inside the Territories Forum.

Military officials, who asked not to be identified, said an internal report prepared by other army officers accused Vilnai of failing to present an accurate picture of violence in Gaza.

An angry Vilnai, in turn, accused his rivals within the forum of leaking the assessment to the press to try to compromise his image. Vilnai told Shomron over the weekend that he would not present further reports to the forum, they said.

"There is so much intra-army politics," one army official said, insisting on anonymity. "Vilnai is much more reliable and accurate in reports... than others before him," the official added. "There is much less attempt to paint a rosy picture."

"Vilnai is much more reliable and accurate in reports... than others before him," the official added. "There is much less attempt to paint a rosy picture."

Uri Milstein, a Bar-Ilan University military historian, linked the "war of the generals" to the anticipation about future appointments.

"If today we talk about changing and advancing and deciding on new ranks and new jobs, then it is clear that such reports... grow more frequent," Milstein told Israel Radio.

"If this or that general is more or less successful, he has more chance to get higher ranks and others may get discharged because of that."

Beirut hails World Cup champions

BEIRUT (AP) — Gunfire echoed across Beirut's eastern and western sectors all night as jubilant Lebanese celebrated in traditional fashion West Germany's soccer victory over Argentina in Sunday's World Cup final in Rome.

Convoys of honking cars decked with German flags paraded through the streets until, day-break Monday. Fireworks and parachute flares illustrated the dark sky of the divided city.

West Germany and Brazil are traditionally the most popular soccer nations in Lebanon.

Christian-controlled radio stations interrupted their regular programmes to flash assurances to the public that a ceasefire between warring Christian factions had not collapsed.

"It's people, militiamen and troops shooting in the air. They are all festive over the German victory. Our ceasefire remains

intact," one announcer said. Militiamen of Christian warlord Samir Geagea and troops of rival army General Michel Aoun put down their guns and switched on portable television sets on tanks and anti-aircraft guns in east Beirut.

The two sides have been battling for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave since Jan. 30. West Germany was left the overwhelming favourite among Lebanese fans after Brazil was ousted by Argentina in the early stages of the tournament. Vengeful Brazil fans switched allegiance to West Germany. So did Italy's supporters after Argentina eliminated their team in the semi-finals.

Many Syrian peacekeeping troops in charge of security in Beirut's western sector were seen on rooftops emptying their guns in the air in tribute to the Germans.

Almost every cafe, restaurant nightclub and hotel in west Beirut and television sets installed for the final, and all were packed with boisterous fans.

At the American University of Beirut, Lebanon's largest educational centre, dormitories erupted with firecrackers and thunderous cheers when Andreas Brehme of West Germany scored the only goal of the game on a penalty kick with six minutes remaining.

Students chanted "Almanian" and surged out onto the campus with flashlights, brandishing German flags and beating drums.

Frenzied students in the men's dormitories lobbed dozens of plastic bags filled with water on passing motorists and shouted from windows "Germany is the best."

The World Cup kept rival factions in both sectors of the capital on hold for several weeks.

'Innocent' plea in Tel Aviv massacre

TEL AVIV (AP) — The old Israeli charged with meditated murder of Palestinian Labourers of automatic rifle fire speak Monday as his trial in Tel Aviv district court.

Judge Chaim Steinbarg that Ami Popper's charges to a plea of innocence he argued he was not the shooter and that he was not the shooter and that he was not the shooter.

Before the plea was Popper's lawyer, David asked to be relieved of defence attorney. He cited the young man's refusal to testify.

Steinbarg rejected Popper's plea and set the next trial for Sept. 5.

Popper, dressed in a shirt and black shorts, silent throughout the opening session of his shooting to death the workers and wounding 11.

The victims were among 50 unarmed Arab workers for day labour jobs in Aviv suburb of Rishon.

The charges said Popper armed with a Galil assault rifle and forced the workers rows, then stopped a vehicle and ordered its occupants to get out.

"All of a sudden, the aimed his weapon in the of the workers and start incessantly," the charge Popper, who is from Letzton, was arrested after the slayings.

At the time, author scribed Popper as "a d and distraught over ar love affair."

Ofek later maintained was trying to kill one man the 50 labourers. He intended victim was on Arabs who "sexually at Popper when he was 1."

Popper's family first had never heard of assault, but later said he began to act strangely at of the alleged molest.

Ofek had argued Popper unfit to stand trial, but a five psychiatrists found able to understand the

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

EC ministers invite Levy

TEL AVIV (R) — Three European Community (EC) foreign ministers have invited Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy for talks this month, an Israeli official said Sunday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yossi Amihud said Israel had not yet accepted the invitation by Italy, current EC president, Ireland and Luxembourg, citing Levy's health as the determining factor. He has been recovering from a minor heart attack. The EC last month sharply criticised Israel for human rights violations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Levy, from the rightist Likud Party, has also been invited to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Paris next week.

Algeria's FLN may elect new politburo

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), shaken by defeat in local elections last month, may elect a new politburo at a meeting which opened in Algiers Sunday, the official news agency APS said. Members of the 268-strong FLN central committee, assessing the election results and discussing how to restore the party's credibility, told the agency a new politburo would mark a step towards renewing the party. The present 15-member politburo, chosen by President Chadli Benjedid last December and endorsed wholesale by the central committee, is dominated by the reformist wing of the party. It includes none of the old guard FLN members who made a political comeback during a party congress last November. APS, in a report on the debate Sunday, said two former ministers, Abdoul Salam Belaid and Boualem Benhamouda, repeated FLN positions which predated the party's defeat by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in June 12 local elections. The FLN, which has ruled Algeria alone since independence from France in 1962, came a poor second in the elections with 28 per cent of the vote, against 53 per cent for the FIS. The old guard are expected to blame the reformist wing for the electoral defeat. Benjedid is absent at an Organisation of African Unity summit in Addis Ababa.

EPLF says 10 Ethiopian airmen defect

DAMASCUS (R) — A guerrilla group fighting the Ethiopian government for the independence of Eritrea province said Sunday that 10 members of the Ethiopian air force had defected to Yemen. A spokesman from Damascus for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) told Reuters the 10 airmen flew to the Yemeni port of Al Hudaydah July 4 in an Antonov-32 plane and asked for political asylum. The EPLF claims that Eritrea was illegally incorporated into Ethiopia in 1961.

Libyan envoy in Baghdad with message

BAGHDAD (R) — The chief of staff of Libya's armed forces arrived in Baghdad Monday with a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency reported. It gave no information on the contents of the message. Colonel Mustapha Al Kharoubi, chief of staff of Libya's armed forces, has already been to Egypt, Syria and Jordan conveying messages from Qadhafi to their leaders and is expected to visit Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. A Baghdad-based Arab diplomat said Qadhafi's messages were related to efforts by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to improve relations between Libya and the United States.

Turkey seeks U.S. explanation

ANKARA (R) — Turkey sought an explanation from Washington Monday for a new U.S.-Greek military base agreement which it said was open to misuse. "Statements by Greek officials indicate the aim is to provide guarantees against Turkey," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The ministry said it was "inconsistent and nonsense" to seek a security guarantee from one NATO member against another member of the Western alliance. U.S. Ambassador Morton Abramowitz was invited to the ministry Monday and asked for an explanation, it said.

Road accidents kill 159 Turks in holiday

ISTANBUL (R) — Traffic accidents killed 159 people and injured 206 in Turkey during the nine-day Eid Al Adha holiday, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Sunday. The highest death toll in a single accident was on June 30 when a truck plunged into a ravine killing 21 miners travelling in it. The holiday ended Sunday.

Church leaders meet in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Christian church leaders from the Middle East gathered for a three-day meeting in Cyprus Monday to consider what they see as growing threats to the survival of Christianity in the region. A Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) announcement said the meeting of the 24 members of its executive committee in the south coast city of Limassol "will deal with several issues of key importance for the churches of the Middle East today." The primary issue is the threat to the survival of the constantly diminishing Christian presence in the region due to emigration. Others will include "the role of religion in situations of conflict and religious extremism in the region," the statement said. Conference sources said this item would deal both with the spread of Islamic fundamentalism and Israeli moves to minimise Christian presence in Jerusalem. The statement said the conference will deal specifically with the occupation by Jewish settlers of the Greek Orthodox hospice in the Christian quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem earlier in the year.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
16:00 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:15 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:40 Programme review
16:45 Local programme
16:50 News Summary
17:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:20 Des chaires et de lettres
18:40 Tel Fara Tel Fila
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:40 News in Arabic
19:50 Golden Girls
20:10 A Hopeman Riding By
20:20 News in English
20:30 Paradise
20:40 Police Squad

PRAYER TIMES

06:59 Fajr
07:33 (Sunrise) Doha
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 Asr
19:47 Maghreb
21:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifish Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785, 685326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Santa Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 625453.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assam International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815917, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 19 / 32
Aqaba 26 / 40

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Deserts 20 / 37
Jordan Valley 24 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 696048
Dr. Yousef Rashid 896301
Dr. Saleh Al Issoud 649028
Dr. Mufied Tannous 649480
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637025
Naioukh pharmacy 636762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shneic pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shagari (—)
Al Shagari pharmacy (983236)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Awad (—)
Khalef pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

CIVIL DEFENCE IMMEDIATE

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

Complaints 87467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636361

RJ Flight Information 08-53280

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53280

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

09:15 Moscow (RJ)

10:00 Jeddah (RJ)

10:00 Jeddah (add.) (RJ)

10:00 Baghdad (RJ)

10:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:30 Cairo (RJ)

10:30 Dubai (RJ)

10:30 Kuwait (RJ)

10:35 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

10:40 Cairo (RJ)

10:40 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)

10:40 Beirut (RJ)

10:40 New York (add.) (RJ)

10:40 Tripoli (RJ)

11:35 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)

11:45 Rome (RJ)

12:00 Rome (RJ)

12:10 Jeddah (RJ)

12:10 Jeddah (RJ)

NAF plans expanding assistance to the needy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) which is operated by the Ministry of Social Development is embarking on a two-phase plan this year designed to expand its assistance to the needy to include greater numbers of poor families and to transform small size projects for heads of needy families into income-generating schemes, according to Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh.

"This year the NAF's budget amounts to JD 4.5 million which will be spent on feeding the needy and creating job opportunities for their able-bodied members," said the minister in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"NAF, which was created by the government in 1986, relies for income on the annual budget allocated by the government and contributions from benefactors and organisations," added the minister.

Shreideh said that the allocation is needed to provide financial assistance to some 11,000 poor families at rates reaching up to JD 40 a month, to finance vocational training programmes for



Abdul Majid Shreideh

heads of needy families and to purchase equipment required for projects needed by these families so that they can end their dependence on the NAF.

"A study conducted by the ministry showed that most of the 11,000 poor families in Jordan need financial assistance to feed themselves," the minister pointed out.

He said the ministry normally re-examines its financial aid once it ensures that families begin to earn their own living. "To guarantee that, the NAF finances projects for these families through loans which they have to pay back," he said.

"Normally the NAF writes off 40 per cent of the loans, and allows these families to pay back the rest at the rate of JD 6 a month and over very long periods of time," Shreideh explained.

Shreideh complained however that the allocations for his ministry's budget fall short of the required funds needed to cater to the need of society.

"The ministry has a heavy responsibility towards the development of homeless and handicap-

ped children for whom it has been able to provide 1,950 beds at its child care institutions, orphanages as well as rehabilitation centres around the Kingdom," said the minister.

Shreideh referred to the ministry's activities in the rural and badia regions where, he said, strenuous efforts are being made to involve women in production schemes. The ministry of social development, he explained, has engineered 1,700 industrial, handicraft and farm animal projects which have increased rural families' income by at least JD 100 monthly.

"What the ministry is seeking, is to enable Jordanian villages to produce food and sell surpluses to the cities, not the other way round as the situation is at present," he said.

Shreideh, who is member of the Lower House of Parliament and the independent Islamic bloc, said that his bloc adopts his views as a minister in the government and backs decisions taken by the government. "Being a minister, my responsibility is first towards the Cabinet which reflects the

Aqaba is slowly resuming normal life after Eid rush

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Pressure has eased off at Aqaba after 15 days of chaos brought in by thousands of vehicles and passengers jamming the streets and choking life in the port city 'awaiting' ferry transport to Egypt at the height of the 'Eid Al Adha' holiday, according to officials and residents.

"Everything is back to normal," said Dr. Mohammad Smadi, under-secretary of the Ministry of Transport. "There is no longer any prolonged wait for passengers or vehicles," he added.

Smadi said the overwhelming pressure at the port was brought about by a combination of factors including an unexpected wave of thousands of overland passengers from the Gulf crossing over to Egypt after all the Gulf states unified their summer-vacation periods, the end of the pilgrimage season and delays in the sea route between Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and Egyptian ports in addition to the normal traffic between Aqaba and Nuweibeh.

Most of the passengers use private-owned cars for their trip from the Gulf, across Kuwait and Iraq or Saudi Arabia, to Jordan and onward to Egypt, Sudan and other Maghreb countries.

Tawfiq Jerries, deputy general manager of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company, which normally operates two ferries on the Aqaba-Nuweibeh route on a daily basis, said a total of 38,164 passengers and 4,545 vehicles were ferried to Nuweibeh between June 25 and July 4. He said the company, jointly own-

ed by Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, had chartered two more ships to cope with the heavy traffic.

"The problem was not caused by the number of people, although it was high," Jerries told the Jordan Times Monday. "The ships that the company owns have the capacity to double their daily intake of passengers. It was the flood of vehicles that caused the crisis, which we resolved by chartering extra vessels."

Another reason for the run on the route was the considerably cheaper cost for transport of vehicles on the 33-nautical-mile, three-hour trip across the Red Sea to Nuweibeh on the Sinai Peninsula than to Suez, Jerries said. Even at that, the four or five ships that ply the Aqaba-Suez route were also swarmed with heavy traffic when many switched to them after failing to find immediate place aboard the ships of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company, shipping officials said. But that did not alleviate the pressure on the Aqaba port since "whether Nuweibeh or Suez, everyone has to use the same port facilities and services," said an official.

According to Aqaba officials and residents, the pressure started building around June 20, shortly after schools in the Gulf states closed for summer vacation. "By the evening of June 24, the entire city was full to the brim," said one resident reached by phone from Amman. "There was no parking space anywhere within the city; every place was taken. Wherever you turned you found crowds of families and vehicles from dozens of different countries."

At the height of the situa-

tion, there were over 20,000 people and 10,000 vehicles packing the streets in addition to the regular traffic, he said. "You had to drive at a snail's pace despite the width of the roads in the city."

According to an official at a cargo shipping agency in Aqaba, "some people had to wait as much as four days before they reached the end of the line at the port and got themselves and their vehicles aboard the ship."

"It was chaotic," he said. "As it was, there was a large number of tourists in addition to residents of Jordan who drove down to Aqaba to spend the holiday; many of them hastily retreated though."

According to Jerries, the authorities moved swiftly to handle the situation. He said that as soon as it became obvious that the two ships owned by the Arab Maritime Bridge Company — Al Hussein and Al Farah, with a capacity of 1,400 passengers and 150 vehicles each — were not enough to cope with the flood, it chartered two vessels and introduced them on the line. All four ships were fully operative between June 25 and July 5, "the last day of the pressure when we transported 927 vehicles and 3,000 passengers," he said.

"We had also set up a temporary shelter with all basic facilities for 3,000 people in Aqaba to cope with the flood," he told the Jordan Times. "Now, there is not a single person or vehicle at the shelter," he said. "It now takes less than two hours for a passenger and his vehicle to get aboard the ships."

In the meantime, there are hundreds of cars and pick-ups with foreign license plates still parked in the city, and many residents are baffled by their presence. "Is it possible that the owners discarded them and went away?" asked a resident.

Jerries explained that these vehicles were apparently left behind by passengers who decided it was better for them to continue the journey without cars rather than waiting for days for enough room aboard the ships. "They have parked their cars at Aqaba and will collect them on the return trip," he said. "Many have already done so."

Residents agreed that Aqaba streets were more or less back to normal since Friday despite the wave of returning pilgrims and their vehicles. "But we can do without a repetition of what happened," said an Aqaba housewife visiting Amman.

Both Smadi and Jerries voiced confidence that there would not be any recurrence of the chaos saying the authorities and the Arab Maritime Bridge Company are fully prepared to handle any heavy traffic.

Smadi said the company would continue to use the two chartered ships — the Balkis, an Iraqi roll-on-roll-off vehicle carrier, and Al Arish, an Egyptian-owned 1,000-passenger vessel — for the next three months to cope with the high traffic expected to resume in early August when passengers heading for the Gulf begin their return journey in addition to the ongoing rush of Egyptian, Tunisian, Algerian, Moroccan and other North African pilgrims returning home overland from Saudi Arabia.

ACC to study agreement on environment, local affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministers responsible for the environment and local government affairs in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will start a two-day meeting here Tuesday to study a draft agreement on cooperation in protecting the environment and an executive programme for implementation of an agreement on local government.

The agreement on environmental affairs is designed to launch close cooperation among Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen and to unify the four states' position regionally and internationally, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi.

He said in a statement, on the eve of the meeting, that cooperation in environmental affairs entails working out a comprehensive

system for protecting the environment, coordinating efforts in environmental research programmes against pollutants, formulating national environmental strategies in each of the four member states to ensure protection against pollution, coordinating efforts in providing protection for marine life, laying down integrated programmes to deal with desertification and finding proper means to ensure food safety.

In addition, he said, the agreement aims at coordinating the four countries in the Arab council in controlling the disposal of dangerous waste and at preparing a contingency plan to deal with natural and environmental disasters. It also aims at conducting research work and exchanging expertise and information related to protecting wildlife reserves, setting up an integrated network to monitor the environment and

spread awareness among the members of the public about the need for protecting the environment from all forms of pollution.

Referring to cooperation in local government and municipal affairs, Dughmi said that the agreement calls for research work and exchanges of expertise and information and organising training courses for personnel from the four member council to improve management and update legislations in local government affairs.

The agreement, he said, encourages twinning of cities in the four countries, preservation of the Arab history and culture and Islamic architectural style in Arab cities.

It calls for cooperation in developing the badia regions in the four Arab countries and carrying out pilot projects in the desert areas.

Jordan, Kuwait discuss cooperation in supply issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub and a Kuwaiti delegation Monday discussed economic cooperation between Jordan and Kuwait, particularly in the field of pricing basic food commodities and ensuring the quality of food stuffs.

Also discussed during the meeting were means of Kuwait benefiting from Jordan's experience in the area of supply of basic foodstuffs.

The visiting Kuwaiti delegation comprises representatives of the ministries of industry, trade and customs and the municipality of Kuwait.

Charges and countercharges fly over women's federation

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Confusion and controversy are plaguing the nine-year-old General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) as its members across Jordan prepare themselves for local and national elections scheduled to take place later this month.

Members of the federation's executive committee which had been dismissed June 10 are awaiting results of legal charges they filed against the minister of social development.

After what appeared to be a controversy surrounding the date of the GFJW elections, which technically should have been held in May 1989, Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh dismissed the 17-member committee, which had completed its second term, and appointed an ad hoc committee to oversee the elections.

Members of the disbanded committee are charging that Shreideh had no legal authority to dismiss the committee and that his interpretation of the federation's election law, as stated in a newly written charter, allows for disproportional representation. "He had no right to dismiss us and to subsequently interpret article 12 of the federation's charter, the section dealing with proportional voting, according to his whim," said one of them.

Members of the temporary executive committee, which was appointed by the minister, say that all is fair and that the minister had no other choice but to dissolve the previous committee because it had outlived its legal

three year term by more than a year.

"The minister was working within his jurisdiction and there was nothing else he could have done, elections could not be postponed forever," said one of the members of the temporary committee.

While some former executive committee members stopped short of accusing the minister of interpreting the article in question as he did for political reasons, others did not.

"The interpretation, which the minister has allowed for, favours a new element in the federation; it actually allows for 'overrepresentation'," one two-term member of the executive committee told the Jordan Times. "The new element in question, as I'm sure everyone already knows, is the women Islamic group," she said.

According to federation sources, most of the new members in the Amman chapter, totalling 1,120 women, are between the ages of 18-22 and adhere to the strict code of traditional Islamic garb.

"The first thing we know is that ladies with lists and registration fees showed up at the federation in early March this year in large numbers at regular intervals," said a member of the Amman chapter of the federation. "Then," she said, "we noticed that they all registered as independent members and that most of them wear scarves and long dresses. Up to here it's fine with us," she adds.

"When the ministry decides to interpret the law, which in effect

gives independent members a greater voice in the regional and national election of the federation's committees and executive committee, some of us started feeling foul play was at hand," said another Amman member of the federation.

According to the interpretation of the new clause, each social institution, club and society is represented in the municipal councils by two members while every 50 individual members are represented by three chosen delegates.

According to former executive committee members, the women's societies, social institutions and clubs, which make up most of the federation's members, should have representation according to the number of members it has.

Meanwhile former members said "it was the minister who, in consultations with us, for administrative reasons, was postponing the elections," explained one former executive. "And the temporary committee is just there to say 'aye' to whatever the minister says anyway," she added.

According to members of the former executive committee, the federation's charter needed amendments. "The amendments took time to formulate, that's why there was some delay in calling for the elections," one former member said.

Critical observers of the federation have charged that those who wrote the amended charter did not clarify many articles sufficiently and that the charter still needed a lot of changes. While outside observers blame the pre-

vious committee for this, many are in agreement with the old committee's charges that the interpretation of article 12 of the charter has political implications which would create "unfair representation" of given groups in the federation.

"One of the main problems with the federation is that no factual material is available and no one is willing to provide actual figures as to how many members there are and what committees they belong to," said one federation observer who has found no response from federation officials to her questions.

Elections to regional councils have taken place in Karak, Tafleh, Balqa and Mafrag, leaving three districts to go before the Amman elections are held July 19. While some of the regional federation members were willing to talk to the Jordan Times, others were not. "We can't tell you about the results because we don't want to affect results in other regions and there is a mix up in several elections about who votes and how they vote," said the president of the Karak branch of the federation, Ribah Majali.

The newly elected president of the Balqa branch of the GFJW, Sulafa Haddid, was willing to give names and numbers of her branch's members. "We have 591 members and not one of them is independent so we have no problems," she told the Jordan Times.

While the charges against the minister of social development have yet to be ruled upon in court and the federation's members are making conflicting statements, all one observer could say was "it's a jungle out there."

Jordan, Syria to discuss trade ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz arrived in Damascus at the head of a Jordanian team to prepare for a meeting there later this month by the Jordanian Syrian higher joint committee co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

Fariz is expected to hold talks on industrial and trade ties and will discuss the conditions of joint industrial ventures and means of boosting production of joint companies.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the two sides would discuss the situation at the Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Free Zone which houses a number of companies from the two countries and further facilities to promote the free zone operations and investments.

Communists criticise Cabinet, issue own version of solutions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Communist Party Monday released a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament criticising present government policies and presenting solutions for problems facing the Kingdom.

The eight-point memorandum demanded new economic and political strategies in cooperation with national forces and through enhancing the process of democratisation so as to boost Jordan's defensive and economic capabilities.

The memorandum called on the government to deal with the question of soaring prices of basic commodities and said that the limited-income groups are bearing the brunt in the ongoing economic restructuring programme agreed on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The government should promptly interfere to deal with the soaring cost of living through a new taxation policy and through creating a wages-price balance," the memorandum said.

It called on the government to deal with the unemployment problem by creating jobs for the unemployed Jordanians who should get priority over foreigners, and by increasing investments.

The memorandum demanded that the government speed up the procedure of dealing with corruption cases because, it said, delay in handling this issue can only increase the society's concern and worry, and can erode confidence in the country.

It also demanded that speedy measures be introduced to provide assistance to farmers who suffered from the drought and called for an end to security authorities' excesses especially in the area of employment.

In the memorandum the Communist Party voiced dismay and regret over the recent government reshuffle which, it said, did not meet the expectations and failed to increase optimism and confidence in the democratic process in Jordan.

The memorandum demanded a greater measure of popular participation in the democratisation process and a drastic change in Jordan's informational policies so that Jordan can be mobilised to confront and deal with the U.S.-Israeli challenges and pursue the struggle for the re-establishment of the Palestinian people's rights.

The memorandum reminded the government that the whole Middle East region is going through a dark moment and is on the brink of exploding as a result of Israel's expansionist policies.

It said that extraordinary efforts should be taken on the popular and official levels to enable the country to meet the challenges.

Conference to discuss Palestinian education

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-member Arab council entrusted with tackling matters related to education in Palestine will convene in Amman Tuesday to discuss the education situation in the occupied Arab territories and acceptance of Palestinian students in Arab universities.

The council's five-day meeting will be attended by delegates from Palestine, Syria, Egypt and Jordan. They will review reports on Israel's practices against educational institutions as well as working papers dealing with means of promoting the educational process in Palestinian universities and schools.

The meeting, organised by the Tunis-based Arab League in

cooperation with the Ministry of Education here is expected to review measures that could be taken to ensure the continuation of the educational process inside the occupied Arab lands despite Israel's closure of schools and universities.

The working papers and the reports deal with ensuring the provision of educational material to the Palestinian children under Israeli rule through television and radio broadcasts, beamed from various Arab countries, especially Jordan.

The Ministry of Education said that it had prepared a working paper for the meeting dealing with the educational situation in the occupied lands.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-printed fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Sainte: the French city of art" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics, sculpture and paintings by Gastone Primus at Alfa Art Gallery — 6:30 p.m.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Rodaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Lecture entitled "Cultural Resources Management (CRM), theory and practice in Jordan" by architect Ruba Kana'an at ACCR — 7:00 p.m.

Israelis bomb Hizbollahis

(Continued from page 1)

form of pressing Israel to free its prisoners or seek the release of three Iranians missing since 1982 who it says are still alive and held in captivity by the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia.

The United States said in May its investigation had shown the Iranians were dead.

The Western relief aid to victims of Iran's big earthquake last month, however, reignited hopes that Tehran might resume its efforts to get the hostages re-

leased. Rafsanjani said the help would naturally affect Iran's attitude towards the donors.

In Beirut, a source close to Hizbollah said: "Let us pray the Israeli attacks will not scuttle efforts to free one of the hostages."

"The hostage-holders are definitely restless, but I personally believe Iran's pressure will probably override the impact of the attacks," the sources told the Associated Press.

BRITISH CITIZENS: RIGHT TO VOTE

The Representation of the People Act of 1989 has made important changes in who can vote in U.K. Parliamentary and European Parliamentary Elections.

1. Even if you left the U.K. as long ago as October 1970 you can still vote.
2. People who left the U.K. before they were old enough to be included on the Electoral Register may register as overseas electors.
3. You need no longer declare an intention to return to the U.K.

In order to qualify you need to fill in an application form by *10 October 1990.

To get a form and explanatory leaflet contact the Consular Section, British Embassy, P.O. Box 87, Abdon.

* 15 September 1990 in Northern Ireland.

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Something up in the air

MENGISTU Haile Mariam is up to something. According to news reports, the Ethiopian leader recently visited Italy and Israel and met Israeli and American officials. Recent news reports also talk of a secret deal between Haile Mariam and the Jewish state to settle Falashas (Ethiopian Jews) in the Eritrean archipelago of Dahlak, presently the site of a Soviet naval base, in exchange for Israeli help to crush Eritrean and Tigrean revolts.

Haile Mariam is in trouble. His economic policies have brought disaster to Ethiopia. Famine is rampant in most parts of the country. The Soviet Union is no more interested in the Marxist leader's corrupt oligarchy. The Cubans are also disengaging themselves from the region. Both Eritrean and Tigrean liberation fronts are gaining ground against Haile Mariam's army. In fact the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) has most of the Eritrean north under control, including the province's capital Asmara.

Eritrea is predominantly Arab. The province stretches all the way along Ethiopia's Red Sea coast. The area is of extreme strategic importance to all the powers interested in the region, in particular the West and Israel. It is very important for the Arabs because it overlooks the strategic Strait of Bab Al Mandeb.

That is why the Marxist officer is turning West. This is a very dangerous turnabout in the whole of the Horn of Africa affair. Coupled with reports that Ethiopia, with Israeli advice and expertise, is planning to tap the waters of the Nile River, it seems that Haile Mariam is going to stab the Arabs in the back. By mid-July talks should start in Sanaa between the Ethiopian government and the ELF. The Arabs should make it clear to Haile Mariam that he cannot compromise Arab security and strategic interests and get away with it. He should be told in no uncertain terms that flirting with Israel, the Arab Nation's enemy, will only get him in more trouble. The Arabs cannot sit idle and see the Red Sea security endangered by Israeli ambitions and Haile Mariam's political stunts.

At the same time, the Arabs should also not forget that their support for the Eritreans has been instrumental in pushing Haile Mariam to Israel's arms. Hence, any approach to the army officer should be on an even keel.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily on Monday expressed dismay over reports about Moscow's intention to dispatch teams to the occupied Arab territories to make sure that no Soviet immigrants are settled there. The paper said that the Arabs hope that the reports are not true because they are keen on maintaining strong Soviet Arab relations. The paper said Moscow should realise that Israel has adopted an open policy of settling Soviet Jews on Arab lands, and this does not even require any proof since the Israelis themselves announce it and are determined to carry it out. A handful of Soviet officials touring Arab territories and writing reports about the situation can by no means solve the issue, said the paper. It said what is required from Moscow is to shoulder its responsibility towards respecting the cause of peace based on justice. The least Moscow can obtain from Tel Aviv is a clear declaration that no Jews will ever be settled on Arab land and that a United Nations team of observers should be permanently stationed in the occupied territories to ensure that this commitment is respected in essence and spirit, demanded the paper. But a mere team touring the West Bank and Gaza Strip and writing reports can only reflect lack of confidence in Arab views and is cause for astonishment, the paper added. Let us hope, said the paper, that the Arabs will from now rely only on their intrinsic strength and prevent any one from disregarding their rights.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday warns of the explosive situation in the Middle Eastern region largely due to Israel's aggressive policies. There are indications that the explosion is imminent but unfortunately there are no signs that the Arabs are ready to deal with it in a manner that would ensure the security of their territory and their rights, says Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer notes that the Israelis do not talk about an end of war with the Arabs and their present leaders do not consider the 1973 war and the 1982 invasion of Lebanon as the end of confrontation with the Arab state. The Israelis are continuing to absorb huge numbers of immigrants, and are acquiring all types of mass destruction weapons to use against the Arabs, said Rimawi. In view of this situation the Arabs have so far failed to revive the Eastern Front, totally ignoring calls by Arab masses to pool their resources and their military might to put an end to Israel's arrogance, the writer adds. He says that in view of the current destabilised situation, the Israelis, backed by their American allies can and are bound to launch further military adventures in the region. The writer notes that the recent Baghdad Summit resolutions are of paramount importance, but they would remain futile should they not be put into practice.

Sawt Al Shaab daily criticised the United States stand with regard to the current efforts for peace in the Middle East. It said that while Moscow has been reaffirming the need for Israel to withdraw its forces from the occupied Arab territories as a condition for the restoration of Israeli-Soviet relations, Washington has been seeking to appease Tel Aviv. The paper said that the United States Secretary of State is now seeking a meeting with the Israeli foreign minister in Paris to settle American-Israeli differences and to submit further pledges for help to the Jewish state. To pave for the meeting, seen as a clear sign to win American Jewish community's favour, Washington has demanded that the U.N. General Assembly rescind a former resolution equating Zionism with racism, and has announced its intention to demand a written pledge that the PLO will never be a participant in any peace process, the paper noted. It said that Washington's actions can only reaffirm its alliance with Tel Aviv and a total disregard to Arab rights.

The View from Fourth Circle

Good moment for a crisis

ONE of the significant little moves that make up the complex chess game of the Arab-Israeli conflict took place in Washington, D.C. last week. It was not very widely reported in the Arab World, as far as I could tell, and it probably deserves more careful analysis than it has received to date. I am talking about a statement made in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman David Obey (Democrat, Wisconsin), who is chairman of the House Foreign Operations Foreign Aid Subcommittee. He was talking during discussions of the 1991 foreign aid bill.

His basic message to Israel was that if Israel continued expanding its settlements, the U.S. Congress might cut American aid to Israel by the same amount which Israel spent on expanding the settlements. As the good people of Wisconsin would say, Holy Cow! Are we hearing correctly? American government officials, members of Congress no less, threaten to reduce aid to Israel? Listen to Mr. Obey:

"The Middle East aid that we provide in this bill is not provided in a vacuum. The American government's position has always been that we support the principle of trading land for peace, provided that the security arrangements are

sound. "I think we have a right to expect cooperation and candour, not footdragging and obfuscation, on the part of any Israeli government when it comes to the peace process. "...Frankly, more and more members of Congress have come to me and told me that this year, they are simply not going to vote for this bill because they want to send a message to Israel that they are unhappy with the conduct that is occurring on the West Bank and Gaza I want to make it quite clear, if Israel expands their settlements in any way, or if they add a single new settlement, I will make a flat commitment right now that will support any request made by the administration to reduce aid to Israel in next year's bill to reflect the cost of that expansion.... What I am saying is that if there is any expansion beyond those baselines (of existing settlements) I want to put every party on notice right now that they can expect me, as chairman of the subcommittee, to support any administration request to scale back our aid to Israel to reflect the cost of that added expansion."

"Israel is a sovereign country. It has the right to do anything it wants domestically and in pursuit of its own foreign policy. But the United States government has no obligation to fund either directly or indirectly settlements which we believe to be an impediment to the peace process, and something which simply will in the long term make matters worse."

This is refreshing stuff, and important because it comes from a Democrat, in a country where Democrats seem to believe that the ghost of Franklin Roosevelt is eternally dancing with the spirit of Theodore Hertzl, b) a chairman of a key congressional sub-committee responsible for foreign aid appropriations, c) a congressman who specifically mentions that other colleagues of him share his view, and d) a prominent congressional leader whose voice sounds like it would rhyme nicely with similar messages coming out of the mouths of the American president and secretary of state.

I do not at all suggest that we are already witnessing a major change in American attitudes towards Israelis and Palestinians and the Arab World as a whole. The signs of pro-Israeli imbalance in official American policy are still too clear and persistent for that. What I do suggest is that the historical pattern of American-Israeli ties may be on the verge of a new stage in which American officials and people as a whole demand linkages between

American aid to Israel and Israeli practices vis-a-vis the Palestinians. In other words, we may see the traditional moral hooliganism that has defined American political attitudes to Israel slowly tempered by an element of shame, followed by a consequent will for respectability and rehabilitation.

In political, diplomatic and historical terms, it is important to recognise these signs as they occur, and to act upon them. We are at a stage today characterised by extreme Arab anger at the United States — an anger which I believe is justified, but which, based on recent history, is unlikely to be translated into political action because the majority of Arab governments still look to the United States for support in the security, economic or political fields. However, the Arab-American dynamic is not the only one in town.

The Israeli-American dynamic is susceptible to change and deterioration, and it should be one of our primary objectives today to speed up that process of change and deterioration. Our anger at America tends to send us down dead end roads in which we demand all-or-nothing change: We demand that Washington vote for all U.N. resolutions that are fair to Palestinians, reduce aid to Israel immediately

and substantially, recognise Palestinian national rights, and elevate the level of talks with the PLO, for starters. What a lovely thought.

But the world does not work like this. As Southern Africa, Central America, Afghanistan, Cambodia and other conflicts have shown recently, historical change comes in small, incremental steps, whose cumulative weight at one point pushes both sides to an inescapable historical deal which assures justice for all concerned. In the Middle East, the overall dynamic between the region and the United States has been relatively stable for two decades — and largely in favour of Israel, and against the Arabs. The fact that we put up with it, get beaten, and come back for more is a problem that we have to deal with in the context of Arab history.

Now, however, because of the more extremist Israeli government, the impact of the intifada, the PLO diplomatic offensive, more balanced European policies, Israel's increasing international isolation, and the more businesslike attitude of the Bush-Baker team, there are signs that the United States may not fund Israeli practices forever without demanding from Israel a more reasonable attitude to peace talks with the Palesti-

nians. The Bush-Baker statements on settlements were one sign. The Robert Dole proposal to cut foreign aid was another. Mr. Bush's insistence on repeating the need for direct Palestinian participation in peace talks is yet another. Mr. Obey's remarks are the latest, and, for me, the most important, because of the traditional fact that pro-Israeli pressure groups have always been most effective in Congress. For a pivotal congressman such as Mr. Obey to use words such as the ones he used is not a routine event. What it portends remains to be seen. We would be well advised to study this dynamic carefully, and assess its full meaning and potential.

It is important now for the Arabs to take a break from self-flagellation, to engage in policies that would increase friction between the United States and Israel, and to allow the Shamir government to show the full implications of its militarism and extremism. If a peace-and-justice-oriented camp is to emerge in the electorate, it will probably happen in the wake of a crisis. It is to our advantage that crises happen soon, and, preferably, within domestic Israeli politics. Mr. Obey's words suggest that everything is possible.

To help, or not to help, that is the question

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A year ago, the idea would have been unthinkable. Now it is the most compelling question to confront these leaders of the Western world: should they dig into their deep pockets to help the Soviet Union and Mikhail S. Gorbachev?

The risk of saying no could be the failure of the ambitious restructuring of the Soviet system, and Gorbachev's downfall. But saying yes has its perils, too, since it would mean pouring billions into an economic morass that has resisted five years of Gorbachev reforms.

"If he were chucked out by some of the extreme right influences we see at play in the Soviet party conference that is ongoing in Moscow today, I think we would be at an infinitely worse position than we are today," said Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Still, Mulroney himself isn't ready to provide direct help just now. Mulroney called Soviet aid to Cuba "profoundly unacceptable" and an obstacle to Western aid.

Even more sceptical is U.S. President George Bush, who received Gorbachev's plea for help in his role as host of the annual economic summit of the seven richest nations.

Bush questions the wisdom of assisting a Kremlin that provides \$5 billion a year to Cuba, spends about one-quarter of its budget on the military and has put few free-market procedures into play. Douglas, the British foreign

secretary, left no doubt where Margaret Thatcher's government stands.

The summit's message to Moscow, he said, should be "mend the hole in the pants before you fill the pockets with dimes and cents."

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan reiterated last Friday it would "not be possible" for Japan to participate in economic assistance to Moscow until the Soviets resolved a 45-year territorial dispute over four islands in the Kuril peninsula.

In the other camp are West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Francois Mitterrand. Kohl wants to put together a \$15-billion aid package for Gorbachev.

According to a well-placed U.S. official, the split over Soviet aid is so deep that the seven governments have not even decided whether to deal with it in their summit-ending declaration later this week.

At this point, said the U.S. official who discussed the issue on condition he not be identified, the three most likely ways of resolving the Soviet aid problem at the summit are these:

— Declaring each of the seven nations can decide for itself whether to help Gorbachev.

— Appointing a panel to study the issue, which could put off a decision as long as a year.

— Trying aid to such requirements as less military spending and a reduction or cutoff of aid to Cuba.

Unification in view, World Cup at home

This is the year of the Germans

By Kevin Costelloe
The Associated Press

WEST BERLIN — Ask the fans who poured into the streets after Sunday's World Cup victory, and they're likely to tell you: This is the year of the Germans.

Unification is just around the corner, and is likely to be completed before the end of the year. West Germany pumped billions into East Germany for this month's currency union, and the mighty Western currency remained just as strong as ever.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl is playing an increasingly important role in guiding European affairs, and world events as well.

German sports officials recently announced they will soon have a single Olympic team after years of separation.

The revitalised city of Berlin is a top contender for the summer games in the year 2000.

Now, Franz Beckenbauer's team has brought home the World Cup, soccer's most prestigious award, sparking massive celebrations in East and West.

"Deutschland, super Deutschland," fans shouted on West Berlin's elegant shopping street after the victory in Rome.

Thousands of flags waved in the cool night air as Germans mounted a massive celebration rivaling the wild scenes after the Berlin Wall fell last November. For a country still haunted by the Nazi past, this year's events will likely help restore national pride.

Still, many will point to the skinheads giving Nazi salutes in East Berlin and the thousands chanting "Deutschland, Deutschland" as the latest signs of growing nationalism.

On the same day Germany won the World Cup, police announced the brief detention of Michael Kuehn, a self-proclaimed successor to Adolf Hitler who has been jailed several times over the past decade for charges ranging from incitement to publicly preaching Nazi propaganda.

Chancellor Kohl and others have been especially on guard against the rise of the far right, as they seek to keep nationalism in check.

During the recent NATO summit meeting in London, Kohl repeated the "unequivocal rejection of a nationalist or separatist approach" in the unification process.

"West Germans are proceeding towards unity clearly aware of our duty," Kohl told the 15 other leaders. "We have learned the lessons of history."

Kohl told reporters that "Germany has a certain importance" in the new European order, but that was an understatement.

With nearly 80 million people and a powerhouse economy, the nation to be formed later this year will be the dominant force in Europe.

In fact, the East Germans, despite predictions of massive problems during a transition

period, have already embarked on what is likely to become the second economic miracle, which could be almost as dramatic as the one that first brought prosperity to post-war West Germany.

"After eight years of uninterrupted expansion, the West German economy does not give any sign of running out of steam," noted the respected French newspaper Le Monde.

The West German government has recently started taking a leading role in advocating massive economic support for Eastern Europe to ensure stability after the collapse of communism there.

Le Monde predicted the good times would continue after unification, and benefit Germany's industrial partner nations as well.

All this comes at a time when Germans are working less and enjoying life more. One powerful labour union in May won a landmark contract that provides for phasing in a 35-hour work week.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LETTERS

Books are expensive

To the Editor

IN a recent article by Saeda Keilani entitled "books and books everywhere but life is tough for university students," one major contributing factor to the cost of many textbooks is the use of commission agents and intermediaries in London, Vienna, and Cyprus by many publishers in the U.K. and the United States. This results in the price of these books being inflated by 10-12 per cent. This means that for every book that costs JD 10, at least one JD is going into the coffers of commission agents outside Jordan. This is quite beyond the control of local Jordanian booksellers, particularly the private contractor at the university. It is perhaps time to take a fresh look at the marketing and distribution of books in Jordan that will lead to a substantial decrease in the cost of many textbooks now used in schools and universities.

As a regular reader of the Jordan Times and being myself editor of a monthly newsletter on education in the Middle East, I hope you will publish this short letter. Thank You.

Christian Doumit
Nicosia, Cyprus

Gunter Gaus — German journalist, diplomat and politician

By John Dornberg and Thomas Quinn

Entries in biographical dictionaries describe Günter Gaus, 61, as a "German journalist, diplomat and politician" while any three of those professions might keep a man busy for life, combining them, as Gaus has done at times, is a formidable task. And yet the description is a bit of an understatement. "Thinker" might be more appropriate.

Few other men of his generation have had as much thoughtful, quiet influence on both the German print and electronic media or on the formation of West German policy toward East Germany. At the same time, few have been as critical in their assessment of the role and performance of the media of the German-German relationship.

Born in Braunschweig, the son of a businessman, Gaus studied history and German literature at the University of Munich, but broke off his formal education to become a journalist, working first for the now defunct *Deutsche Zeitung und Wirtschaftszeitung*, then for three years at the weekly news magazine *Der Spiegel*, and from 1961 to 1965 at Munich's *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, where he made his mark with a series of brilliant interview-portraits of West German politicians.

During his stint at the *Süddeutsche*, Gaus began a series of unique TV interviews, called "Zur Person," for the ZDF television network, that soon made "the back of his head" the best known in the country. During the 45 minutes programmes, the cameras showed only the interviewee, never Gaus's face.

In 1965 he was appointed programme director of the Südwestfunk network, and four years later rejoined *Der Spiegel* as its editor in chief, a position he held until 1973 when, at the request of former Chancellor Willy Brandt, he entered the government as a state secretary and went to East Berlin as the first head of the West German mission to East Germany. He remained in that crucial post for more than seven years and became Bonn's leading expert on and negotiator with the German Democratic Republic, later describing the assignment as "the most fascinating job I've ever had. In 1981, Gaus took the post of Minister of Science in Berlin's city-state government. But later that year, following the defeat of the Social Democratic government in an early election, Gaus turned again to writing — primarily books.

Though Gaus is thoughtful and soft-spoken, he is provocative and iconoclastic, daring to think the unthinkable and say the unsayable. He has often swum against the stream, for example in 1977 by suggesting that West Germany should recognise East German citizenship, and in 1984 by saying: "Television, which seems to be the fulfillment of enlightenment, in the sense that it brings enlightenment into every living room, will ultimately contribute to the end of the Enlightenment."

Actually there is Günter Gaus the journalist and Günter Gaus the public official. Do two souls dwell in your breast? How do you reconcile those two roles and still keep your balance?

Well, I'll leave you to decide about the balance. But regarding the two professions, let me say that through my public and diplomatic service as chief of the mission in the GDR, I developed a different attitude toward my former profession as a journalist. I took a more distant stance toward journalism. I viewed my work as the Federal Republic's representative as something existential, and this led me out of the superficiality that seems to be inherent in journalism.

Look at it this way. If you do an unsuccessful interview or write an editorial that isn't up to standard, you can be assured that next week, or whenever the next issue of your publication appears, you can do a better interview or write a better editorial. But if you negotiate a treaty or agreement with another state, and a state difficult to deal with, and the agreement is faulty because it was not negotiated carefully and meticulously enough, then you cannot just, like the journalist, say that "next week I'll negotiate a different treaty."

This difference in commitment, in demand for self-discipline, induced me to take a different view of journalism, and it is no accident, nor for lack of good job offers, that I decided to concentrate on writing books after leaving government service instead of returning to commentaries on daily events.

You are actually best known as a TV journalist. Yet you are also one of TV's sharpest critics. How do you reconcile that, more spec-

fically, are journalism and television reconcilable, compatible?

Yes they are. First of all, and I'm not talking about my own, there are really some great journalistic achievements in TV, achievements that ought to prohibit my speaking so critically about television. As to my own shows, well those 45-minute interviews, in which I attempted to portray people through questions and answers, were really not very typical of the medium.

What I criticise and find negative about TV, as an information medium, can best be described with this phrase: "appearances are not the same as insight." Television, in its strongest form and where it is most directly TV, transmits moving pictures, and through them evokes in the viewer the illusion that he "sees through" what is presented to him. But he does not see through it. He sees an appearance, which is not the same as insight. He gets the surface. Not because of any attempt to manipulate, not because of evil intentions, but because the moving picture is infinitely stronger than the accompanying, explanatory and commenting word. This feeling of having seen, having been there, makes it especially difficult for those who have the illusion of insight through pictures to analyse and critically debate the events they think saw. TV creates an illusion and superficiality in the public that enhances the fiction, already present in the public mind, that we are all, at all times, mature politically interested beings. It is a fiction, though we should all make the endeavour to turn it into reality. TV hinders that endeavour. Thus I feel that TV has contributed to making an



Gunter Gaus

"acted-out" democracy out of an argumentative democracy.

There was a time when one spoke in Germany of the press being the "fourth estate." Quantitatively the press is certainly overpowering here. But has it any power? Or isn't it more a matter of commercial potency and critical impotence?

Well, the commercial power is great, if by that you mean that you can make a lot of money in the media and that a great deal of money is made. But it is another question whether this is already "power" or just a very flourishing business.

Certainly, in my opinion, the press and the more recent media of radio and television are no longer what one could call the "fourth estate," the fourth power in the state. The role belongs to a time when intellectual journals played a kind of pre-parliamentary role in a parliamentary democracy. That was in the last half of the 19th and first third of the 20th century. This is the other side of the on-the-whole shipy coin of democratisation. Of course the media still have political influence, but they are not a power on its own that stimulated the discussion and debate in the pre-parliamentary stage. Instead they contribute to "mood-democracy," more than any other institution, more than parliament itself or the government, for the government and parliament are almost nothing without the media. To translate their political intentions into action, or laws, the government and parliament need the media. But complicated political processes suffer from oversimplification this way. What it means is that the media have become the main engine of mood-democracy. Mood-democracy, however, is something dangerous and something that majorities consume eagerly because it makes them feel good and comfortable. It is dangerous for minorities.

Do you see democracy, as such, endangered in this television culture?

The older I get, the more reluctant I become to pronounce

apocalyptic verdicts. I think our parliamentary democracy no longer has the quality it had in times when it was not yet accompanied by a perfectly functioning mood-making machinery. But I still agree with Churchill who said that, for all its defects, democracy remains the best form of government.

What cases my qualms is also the trend toward a counter-movement. Growing minorities are turning their attention to visible problem areas. I am thinking here of the alternative movements. Young people want to practice grass roots democracy. It may be hard to do in our society, and the efforts will always be limited. But it is already encouraging that the desire is there. It has unsettled the established democratic forces. These young people refused to be dissuaded by the press, the professional politicians, or the experts. They wanted to become experts themselves, and in a large measure they did.

You criticise private, commercial television because you fear that private property — commercial interests — will influence public opinion. But is that any more dangerous than influence through the state, be it through direct state television or indirectly through a public system such as exists in West Germany but that is falling more and more under state and party-political control?

Well, I think first of all that if public or private TV can exert the negative influences about which we've just been talking, then it makes little difference whether these influences come over the public or the commercial channels. The difference is only that the public channels, by the nature of being public, can be more effectively controlled than private television systems. Money rules, so the private telecasters will programme that which attracts the greatest viewers, regardless of quality. I consider a little boredom that may be inherent in a balanced public programme less dangerous than the one-sided nonboredom of a programme determined by money, big money, and that is subject to virtually no

public control. There's the difference.

For me there is no moral difference between public and private stations or networks, only a control difference, and that is a difference of which I am afraid.

But there's another aspect. Thus far the hunger period for investors in private television has been longer than was expected. But when that period ends, then in all likelihood a great deal of money will be made, and it will create a great new mass of private property. I ask myself whether it is really wise to create a big mass of private property at the end of this democratic century.

To turn to the "other" Günter Gaus, the public servant and diplomat, let's take a look at the GDR. Looking backward, let's say from the building of the Berlin Wall until last summer or fall, what role did West German television play in East Germany? To what degree did it form or influence the political consciousness of East Germans, induce the East German media to react?

First of all, in the days when East German TV was still ideological and impregnated with a pedagogical inclination, and putting on Soviet hero or communist resistance movies during prime time. West German TV simply was more appealing to East Germans. It was more pleasant, salubrious and entertaining. It was also less boring because GDR television — and that is part of the whole ideology that is now in such trouble over there — saw itself as an "education" instrument. It preached. And nobody wants to be preached to. No matter what kind of a political system, and regardless of the ideology — even in our pluralistic society — people will avoid clearly recognisable attempts to educate them.

Secondly, for a minority of the GDR's populace, perhaps a very small minority, West German television had no appeal. On the contrary, they were repelled by it. I had conversations in the GDR where people told me, "your commercials, the advertising on your television, make me uncomfortable."

Third, the GDR's populace, over a period of many years, was rather old-fashioned in its traditional German views about law, quietude, and order. Many of the political reports on West German TV about the alternative scene in the Federal Republic, the chaotic beginnings of the Green party, unnerved and unsettled people in the GDR. The "we are the people," spirit that found its expression in the revolution of 1989 is not something to which the majority of East German burghers adhered during the past 20 years. Though they certainly were not enthusiastic about the official ideology imposed on them, the manifestations of pluralism, transported to them by West German television, were alien to them and made them feel uncomfortable.

Fourth, with the growth of opposition groups in the GDR, which existed much longer than most people here in West Germany assumed, Western TV began to play another role. For these dissidents West German TV became a communications system, a substitute for the system they did not have. For example, reports on West German television about an environmental action group in the north of the GDR enabled a similarly minded group in the south to find out. Though it may not have been its intention, this is where West German TV became directly active politically in the GDR.

That brings us to the political present and your book "Where Germany Lies." Where does Germany lie now, in the spring of 1990?

It still lies where it lay when I wrote and published that book, in 1983, two years after ending my term as chief of the West German mission in the GDR. Perhaps I overstated the Germanness, the German nature, of the GDR, when I wrote that book. But I overstated it deliberately in order to draw attention to what I considered the almost unbearable arrogance of the West German majority. What I found so unbearable was that the term and concept "Germany" had been totally filled and claimed by the Federal Republic. It went as far as sports reporting, for example, when sportscasters spoke about the success of "the German team" when the West Germans placed sixth, not even mentioning as "German" the team from the GDR that had placed first or second.

I felt that it would be useful, indeed necessary, to describe how much had remained German, in the good sense and the bad, among the majority of East Germans, for all their dislike of an unpopular ideology and an unpopular regime. And this is not going to change very quickly.

While we sit here and talk, I cannot tell you what the state and relationship between the two Germanies will be when this interview appears. But I can say this. The division of Germany will not be eliminated through the abolition of two German states or unification, whatever form it eventually takes. There will not be a "zero hour" in which we will be reborn and make a new beginning as if there were no past. That which was caused and affected by 40 years of division will not be obliterated overnight, in the good sense and in the bad — Lufthansa's Germany Magazine.

Pakistan's 'Father Teresa'

By Kathy Gannon

KARACHI, Pakistan — When the streets of Pakistan's largest city explode in gunfire, Abdul Sattar Edhi rushes out into the urban battlefield.

With the siren on his beatup mini-van-bling, he weaves through the streets on a mission of mercy, picking up the dead, the dying and the wounded.

A resurgence of ethnic and political violence has claimed more than 400 lives in Karachi and Hyderabad, kilometres to the north, in the past month.

"When I go out on the streets of Karachi, I feel very sad," Edhi said of the bloodshed, which has transformed this once tranquil city on the sun-baked Arabian sea into camps of heavily armed gangs.

Edhi operates the Edhi Welfare Foundation, a \$5-million a year charity he founded 30 years ago using a battered pickup truck as a one-man free ambulance service.

Steadily he built it into one of the subcontinent's biggest and best-organised social service networks, boasting a fleet of 615 ambulances, a rescue helicopter, dozens of blood banks and shelters for mental patients, heroin addicts, battered wives, orphans, runaways and anyone else his staff finds wandering without help or hope.

"I was born a Muslim, but true religion is the service of humanity," said the white-bearded, gruff-voiced Edhi. "I'm just one man. I just want to help people."

He is called a saint, an angel of mercy, and his deeds have earned him the nickname "Father Teresa," the counterpart of the Roman Catholic nun who has spent her life working with the destitute and dying in the slums of Calcutta, India.

His telephone rings at all hours. He is ready for any emergency, always carrying a packed bag with a small satchel that contains a change of clothes — gray baggy pants and a matching shirt — rubber sandals, glasses, a toothbrush and a near-toothless comb.

Although his work reaches every part of Pakistan, the heart of his operation is Karachi, a city crowded with 9 million people, mostly poor and illiterate.

Born in the Western Indian state of Gujarat, Edhi immigrated to Pakistan during the 1947 partition that ended British colonial rule of the subcontinent. And in many ways, Edhi's simple lifestyle mirrors Mohandas K. Gandhi, the Mahatma or "great soul" who led that freedom struggle.

Edhi and his wife, Bilquis, live in a stark room sandwiched between an office and a narrow room with only a wooden table where the bodies of Karachi's

unwanted and unclaimed are laid out for burial.

Edhi's bed is a wooden plank resting on steel frame. His wife has a mattress, her only concession to comfort.

Mrs. Edhi, mother of four children, looks around the room at the two-burner hot plate, a wooden table and a cupboard crammed with their possessions. "This is my paradise," she said.

The walls outside the dilapidated building are lined with fuzzy photographs of beggars who died in the alleyways around town.

"There are so many people lost and alone in this world," he sighed. "They die alone and no one cares. So we take their pictures and hope that may be somebody will know them."

Edhi has buried a small city over the past three decades, washing more than 60,000 unidentified bodies and wrapping them in traditional white shrouds.

In less than three hours, three bodies arrived for burial. He had already washed and prepared two earlier in the day. "Where else would they go?" he asked.

While Edhi cares for the dead, his wife looks after the living, setting up adoptions.

"I have seen so many children die. They were thrown in garbage cans, in gutters. So I thought I'll give them to the people who want them," she said.

She and her husband have set up homes for battered wives and centres to treat the city's 1 million heroin addicts. They also established a home for the handicapped and a girls' orphanage in two mansions in Karachi's affluent Clifton area, where Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto maintains a home.

The mansions, donated by a wealthy tribal chief, are cavernous and furnished with hand-carved teak furniture, sea green marble and chandeliers dripping with crystal.

But Edhi was forced to string barbed wire around the two metre walls because the wealthy neighbours resented the intrusion into their neighborhood.

"This is natural," he said. "They are proud. They think they are superior. They don't like to see the poor."

But in this desperately poor and troubled country, Edhi's work fills the widening gap created by the government's inability or unwillingness. He does it solely with private donations.

"When my mother died, I promised that as long as God gave me energy, I would work to help the poor and the sick," said Edhi, who has a sixth-grade education.

"I was not educated so when I started, my efforts were small, simple and practical. But the public like it and now they give me money. My work is still simple, but it's no longer small."

Associated Press

Jordan Times

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Argentines celebrate cup final, despite loss

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Thousands, many wrapped in the sky-blue and white national flag, filled streets in Buenos Aires and interior cities Sunday, singing, dancing and blowing horns to celebrate the national team's performance at the World Cup, despite a 1-0 loss to West Germany in the championship match.

"Win or lose, we love the national team," chanted more than 3,000 celebrating fans who walked to the central plaza of the republic in Buenos Aires.

Traffic had been blocked by police to prevent violence that spoiled last Tuesday's celebration, when Argentina defeated Italy in the semifinals.

Many fans, including President Carlos Menem who watched the game from Rome on a giant television screen in government house, agreed that West Germany deserved the victory, but criticised the referee who awarded the penalty kick with six minutes remaining that allowed Germany to score its lone goal.

"Germany took the ball and dominated play," said Menem in a statement. "Argentina was an incomplete team and we lost with an unfair goal because the penalty was not merited."

Mexican referee Edgardo Codesal called for a penalty kick in the 34th minute after Argentina defender Roberto Sensi brought down German striker Rudi Voller on the right side of the penalty area.

Andres Brehme converted the penalty kick, sliding a low shot into the left corner of the net just past the outstretched hand of goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea.

"As far as the referee is concerned, he should take up medicine," and give up officiating, Menem added.

The loss was a reversal of the 1986 World Cup final, when Argentina beat the West Germans 3-2 in Mexico City to win its second title. The South American nation won the World Cup in

1978.

Argentina "was lucky to reach the finals and West Germany deserved the victory, but not that kind of victory, not on a penalty," said Jose Maria Pedraza, a fan who, with his wife Elvira, walked to the Plaza of the Republic to join the celebration.

"And how did we get to the finals?" shouted a bystander. "With little Diego, that's how," he added in reference to Argentine team captain and superstar Diego Maradona.

Some fans criticised Argentina's lack of teamwork and blamed the absence of four key players, suspended for accumulating two yellow-card cautions during the World Cup.

The Germans "walked over the top of us," said Ricardo Illi, a Buenos Aires telephone operator. "Every time a German got the ball he was accompanied by three or four teammates, but every time an Argentine managed to get it he was all by himself with no protection."

Sunday, normally a lazy day of family outings, long, heavy lunches and backyard barbecues, was dedicated to the World Cup final.

Argentina's national flag was hung from windows and balconies of thousands of high-rise apartments and many Argentines called friends to organise parties to watch the game.

Sidewalk vendors occupied corners of every major street to sell national flag, hats, and banners with a likeness of Maradona, proclaiming him "Diego the genius."

Flags, which sold for the 60 U.S. cents on June 3, the opening day of the World Cup when Argentina lost to Cameroon, cost \$2 Sunday.

"Business is great," advised a portly flag salesman in the residential area of Belgrano. "I haven't had such a good day since 1986."

Maradona blames 'mafia' for defeat

Meanwhile a frustrated Maradona charged Monday that a soccer "mafia" orchestrated a plot to ensure a West German victory over Argentina in the World Cup final.

The captain of the South American team also blamed the Mexican referee.

"I will have to tell my elder daughter Dalmita that the mafia exists also in soccer," Maradona said at Rome's international airport before boarding a plane for Buenos Aires. "The penalty which defeated us did not exist and was given to award victory to West Germany and punish Argentina."

Maradona said Monday that he broke into tears at the end of Sunday's final "because I was seized by anger for our impotence to fight superior forces, stronger than us and West Germany."

Argentina's World Cup squad flew home shortly after dawn Monday.

Dozens of policemen escorted the team to the airport. Italian authorities feared possible hostile demonstrations against the South American players, who were booed and whistled by Italian fans throughout Sunday's final. No incidents were reported.

Argentine Soccer Federation President Julio Grondona criticised Codesal and the Italian crowd.

"I have been disgusted by the behaviour of Italian fans. Our only fault was that of beating Italy," Grondona said.

Argentina eliminated the host team in the semifinals on penalty kicks after tying 1-1 in extra time.

The Argentine captain did not elaborate about his allegations about a plot.

"I did not shake hands with FIFA President (Joao) Havelange at the awards ceremony and I will refuse to shake hands with him again in the future," he said.

Final slammed as most forgettable in history

ROME (R) — Argentina's World Cup squad flew out of Italy Monday, chased by banner headlines condemning their brutal performance in the final. "A final to make you cry" read the headline in Italy's Gazzetta dello Sport, adding that the tournament had ended in tears of joy, anger and disgust.

"The fact that Argentina got its comeuppance after an unbelievable run of luck failed to raise the tone of a final which everyone except the Germans will want to forget," the paper added.

Stampa Sera newspaper described the match in which Argentines Pedro Monzon and Gustavo Dezotti were sent off as one of the ugliest World Cup finals ever.

The two red cards and the penalty which gave West Germany a 1-0 victory were all highly dubious decisions by Mexican referee Edgardo Codesal, according to the host nation's press.

"The refereeing was the final debate of this disappointing World Cup," said Rome's Il Messaggero.

Italy's criticism was echoed around the world.

Swiss tabloid Blick wondered if the "sons from the pampas" had gone mad with the full moon. "They were the same destructive Argentines — waiting for their chance and setting their hopes right from the beginning on a penalty shoot-out."

Zurich paper Sport also questioned the penalty decision and said "wild attacks" by Argentine players on the referee, even after the final whistle, were unworthy of World Cup finalists.

Geneva daily La Tribune de Geneve said the match was one of the worst finals in history, marred throughout by the "anti-play" of the Argentine team.

British newspapers voiced the same opinions. "Scum" screamed the Sun, describing the match as a "disgraceful and violent shambles."

"Diego Maradona's face was wet with tears, but he should not have cried for Argentina or for himself," said the Daily Express. "He should have cried for football. This was the World Cup final that betrayed the game."

Another tabloid, Today, added: "The disgraceful sight of two players being sent off ruined an occasion that is expected to set the standard and the tone of world football."

The Guardian said: "The Olympic Stadium loathed Maradona last night and the loathing was shrill and long."

Sweden's Dagens Nyheter commented: "Argentina's reputation has sunk to rock bottom. Maradona and company had too little talent to deserve a place in the football world's biggest single event."

French sports paper L'Equipe said the German victory owed more to a referee overwhelmed by events and the weakness of Argentina rather than to their own strength.

The Spanish press considered the final a fitting tribute to a "grey" tournament. "A dull final closed an unattractive World Cup," said leading daily El Pais.

Diario 16 added: "Codesal did his bit for German reunification."

"The cynical Argentines suffered a just defeat," said Belgium's Het Nieuwsblad. "There is justice," said La Dernière Heure.

3 Soviets fight for top place, in chess tournament

MANILA (R) — Boris Gelfand of the Soviet Union beat Yugoslav Predrag Nikolic Monday and forged a three-way tie for first place with compatriots Mikhail Gurevich and Vassily Ivanchuk in the Manila Chess Interzonal Competitions.

Gelfand, 22, playing white, forced Nikolic to resign in 42 moves of a Slav defence. He posted a total of 6.5 points after nine rounds in a tournament to decide the challengers for the 1993 world championships.

Also at 6.5 points were Ivanchuk, a 21-year-old student from L'viv in the Ukraine, and Gurevich, who drew in 22 moves of a Gruenfeld defence.

Some stars emerged, some faded, but Milla was everyone's favourite

ROME (AP) — Several young players emerged as new stars, the reputation of a few took huge dents and Roger Milla returned to the world stage from a sleepy island to create some of the World Cup's most memorable moments.

The 38-year-old Cameroonian striker was recalled to national team duty after he had been playing soccer for fun at the island of reunion.

A veteran of Cameroon's 1982 World Cup squad, Milla usually sat on the bench during the first half, but then came into the game to create and score goals that made Cameroon the first African nation to reach the World Cup quarterfinals.

Milla ended the tournament with four goals, all the result of the cunning of a born scorer.

And what happened to Marco van Basten, Europe's Player of the Year the last two seasons?

The Dutch striker was supposed to be the big star of the 1990 World Cup. But just like his team, Van Basten seemed to be in a hurry to get to the beach and his contribution to the World Cup was zero goals.

Van Basten's Dutch teammate Ruud Gullit had a slightly better time but he also had a valid excuse — nearly a year out with a knee injury and it was a miracle that he was at the World Cup at all. Gullit at least scored one goal.

Frank Rijkaard, another of the Dutch super trio from the side that won the European championship in 1988 in impressive style, will be mostly remembered for spitting at West German striker Rudi Voller — one of the ugliest incidents of the tournament.

Several other top-rated strikers also flopped. The Austrian pair of Gerhard Rodax and Toni Polster, who combined for about 70 league goals this season, ended with one between them in the World Cup.

Gianluca Vialli could not even keep his place on Italy's starting lineup, let alone score. In stepped Salvatore "toto" Schillaci to score a tournament-high six goals and become Italy's most celebrated man.

Tomas Skuhravy's five goals were impressive enough to find him a new job and let him remain in Italy. The Czechoslovak will leave Prague and move to Italian First Division club Genoa next season.

Enzo Scifo may also return to Italy after emerging as one of the most influential European midfielders. In Mexico four years ago, Scifo was often criticised for being too selfish. This time he played for the team, but ironically, Belgium was knocked out in the second round, after reaching the semifinals in Mexico.

Ghirotto wins 9th stage of the Tour de France

GENEVA (R) — Italy's Massimo Ghirotto outsprinted breakaway companion Eduardo Chozas of Spain Monday to win the ninth stage of the Tour de France, the last stage before the race moves into the Alps.

Ghirotto and Chozas, both former stage winners in the three-week race, crossed the line in four hours 46 minutes and seven seconds after an 80-kilometre ride in the front.

Frenchman Christophe Lavainne launched a late chase 10 kilometres before the Finish in Geneva to snatch third place, 16 seconds behind.

The main bunch, including overall leader Steve Bauer, crossed the line in blazing sunshine 36 seconds behind Ghirotto, at the end of an eventful stage.

Ghirotto, a balding 29-year-old, and Chozas, a born climber who has already won three mountain stages in 1985, 1986 and 1987, launched the decisive charge in the main ascent of the day, the Col des Rousses.

GOVERN BRIDGE

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A CONVENTIONAL CALAMITY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH ♠ K 7 5 4 2

♥ K 10 8 7 3

♦ 7

♣ J 7

WEST ♠ J 6

♥ A Q J 2

♦ K 9 6 4 2

♣ A Q 10 8 5 3

♠ 9 5 2

SOUTH ♠ A 10 9 8 3

♥ 9 4

♦ Void

♣ A K Q 10 8 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Dbl

Pass 5 ♠ Pass Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

Every once in a while a reader asks us whether we recommend MUD opening leads. That's an acronym for Middle, Up, Down, and refers to the order in which opening leader plays three worthless cards — lead the middle, next play the higher card, then the lower. We have always favoured against it and this hand from a tournament in Italy lends weight to our position.

North-South were playing a fore-



Milla heads for the goal as the Colombian goalkeeper vainly tries to stop him

Des Walker was one of the World Cup's most solid defenders and Paul "Gazza" Gascoigne showed that England may finally have a creative midfielder of true world class, albeit on the stocky side.

Another stocky man, Diego Maradona, has been hacked a few times too many to be the same player that he was in leading Argentina to the title in 1986. But there was still enough magic left in Maradona's swollen left ankle for Argentina to reach the final.

A lot credit for Argentina's lucky march through the cup also goes to Sergio Goycochea, the goalkeeper who came on when Mery Pumpido broke his leg in the second game of the tournament. Goycochea saved four penalties to keep Argentina's hopes alive.

Another goalkeeper never saw playing time. Joseph-Antoine Bell did not like the way his Soviet coach Valery Nepomnyashchy guided the team. The coach was not impressed by Bell's opinions, and Bell became a fan, watching World Cup action from the stands. He saw Thomas N'Kono entertain the crowd with his cool presence and long kicks.

Marseille boss Bernard Tapie must have been pleased to see that the millions he spent for Dragan Stojkovic were not a bad investment. The Yugoslav midfielder struggled early but scored two brilliant goals against Spain to lead his team into the quarterfinals.

Spain's midfielder Michel confirmed his class by scoring four goals.

In a World Cup more concerned with defence, another goalkeeper distinguished himself.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Stanley nods off at breakfast, so I had to have air bags installed in his coffee cup."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHABT

HAFFC

WOINDS

PRITOM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

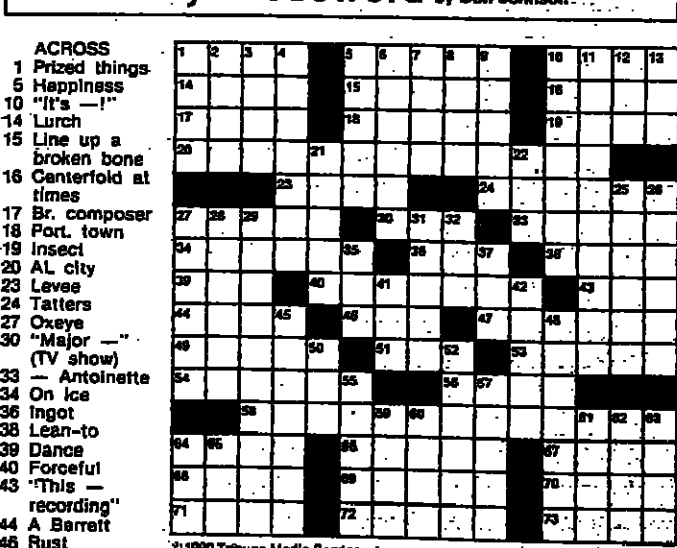
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: OCCUR SCARF ATOMIC GOSPEL

Answer: He was proof that man does not live by bread alone, but by this, too—CRUST

THE Daily Crossword

By Dan Johnson



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Bird, the wing
2. Slav
3. Standouts
4. Cat, goat and rabbit
5. Broom
6. Landmark
7. Nevertheless
8. Exhausted
9. Electric unit
10. Type of fuel
11. Some cars
12. Hindu eagle
13. Quelling expression
14. Excellent one
15. Diminish
16. Beaver
17. Project
18. Change color
19. Moroccan
20. Range
21. King Cole
22. S.A. people
23. In order
24. Whirlwind
25. Not even one
26. Modest
27. Chess type
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England's return to European soccer games more likely after World Cup

ROME (R) — The prospect of an English return to European club soccer competitions strengthened on Monday after a successful drive against hooligan violence at the World Cup.

But the month-long tournament showed that costly blanket policing and some curbs on individual freedoms may be the price to pay to keep the lid on international football rowdies.

Lennart Johansson, president of the European Football Union (UEFA), told the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter that he was ready to recommend lifting a five-year-old ban on English clubs when UEFA meets to consider the issue in Geneva Tuesday.

"We must never give in to violence. That is why I am ready to recommend letting two English clubs play this autumn," Johansson said.

Joao Havelange, president of the World Cup organisers FIFA, said last week that he also favoured an English return.

Both soccer chiefs cited the success of thousands of Italian police in containing trouble makers at the World Cup, mainly among English, West German and Italian supporters.

Britain's Mail on Sunday newspaper, quoting senior govern-

ment sources, said sports minister Colin Moynihan would recommend to UEFA that English clubs return on a trial basis.

English teams have been barred from European competition since a riot by Liverpool fans at the 1985 European Cup final in Brussels led to the deaths of 39 spectators, most of them supporters of Italian club Juventus.

English champions Liverpool are excluded from Europe for three years longer than other clubs, meaning the team in next year's European Cup would be second-placed Aston Villa. Manchester United would be the side in the Cup Winners Cup.

At the World Cup, authorities used a mixture of massive policing and extended bans on sales of alcohol to help reduce the potential for violence.

The worst incidents occurred in Milan on June 10, when West Germans rampaged through central Milan, and in Rimini on June 25, when English youths staying in the Adriatic resort to escape a drinks ban fought running battles with police.

Both riots were quelled by what Moynihan has praised as the "swift, tough and effective" of police, who were quick to employ tear gas, batons and in some cases rifle butts and baseball bats

to restore order.

Rimini also saw what could become a more regular feature of security in European soccer — the rounding up of fans at the scene of trouble with little regard for their involvement.

Nearly 250 fans detained in Rimini were deported, many claiming they had been beaten and held without reason.

Swedish police last week proposed legal changes that would allow them to make mass arrests to prevent a menacing situation from becoming a riot at the 1992 European championships in Sweden. Current law allows only individual arrests.

"There is no guarantee that innocent people will not be arrested but if police use their common sense, there should not be any problem," said National Police Board legal expert Ulf Berg, who drafted the proposal.

Italy has not discussed the cost of its World Cup security operation, though the price of policing England matches was undoubtedly huge given that up to 7,000 police were involved at some venues.

About 400 English fans were deported from Italy during the World Cup and some 70 charged with various offences, according to British officials.

Black marketeers empty Romanian food shops

BUCHAREST (R) — Angry Romanians, facing empty food shops for the first time since December's uprising, blame black marketeers for buying up stocks to sell at inflated prices, Romanian television has reported.

Shops selling meat, sugar, cooking oil and wine in Bucharest have run out of supplies and there are shortages of fruit and vegetables, the report said.

But thousands of traders, defying a police crackdown on black market activities, were selling the products at two or three times the normal price at makeshift markets in Bucharest and Romanian towns.

"We are at present facing an acute shortage of products which has encouraged black marketeering," said Secretary of State Cornel Ceaușescu, who heads the department of foreign trade.

He said the National Salvation Front government was planning further relaxation of state controls and would allow producers to set up their own private shops.

He said this would give consumers more choice and "cut out the middlemen," many of whom are accused of trying to make fast profits.

One pensioner poured scorn on free market policies and said farmers were selling one kilogramme (2.2 pounds) of fruit, which cost eight lei (40 U.S. cents) in regulated markets, for 15 lei (75 cents).

The government has allowed farmers to sell products grown on private plots of land and set their own prices.

"This is the so-called privatisation," he said, adding that it was unfair that people were able to make profits on products such as bread and milk still subsidised by the state.

Since the collapse of communism and the fall of dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu last December trading has grown unchecked.

Romanian television showed shops in a central Bucharest square with empty shelves and one cafeteria was offering only pastries and raspberry juice.

Police arrested a Bucharest shop assistant for selling more than 1,000 bottles of wine to "entrepreneurs" for a profit of 11,000 lei (\$5,000).

Another unlicensed trader had bought five lei (25 cents) bottles of soft drinks from stores and planned to sell them for 20 lei (\$1).

Japan to resume loans to China

TOKYO (R) — Japan's chief cabinet secretary Misoji Sakamoto said Monday Japan would unfreeze loans to China some time after this week's summit of major industrialised democracies in Houston.

Kyodo News Agency quoted Sakamoto as telling a news conference here, "I think (loans to China) will be resumed on Japan's (own) decision, in good time, after the Houston summit."

Sakamoto said, "I don't think China has been completely demoralised."

But he added: "China has made efforts, though they are not sufficient."

"The isolation of China does not have a good influence on Asia and the Pacific region. It is important not to make her isolated," he said.

Last Friday Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama was quoted as saying Japan would lift economic sanctions against China after the July 9-11 summit even if the other six countries did not.

The other summit nations are the United States, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy.

Japanese national newspapers quoted Nakayama as saying in Vienna, "We have decided after the summit to lift (the loan

freeze). Japan must reach a conclusion (on the aid question) on its own."

The newspapers, including the Asahi Shimbun, quoted Nakayama as saying that Japan would unilaterally resume a loan of 810 billion yen (\$5.4 billion) promised for the 1990-94 period.

Japan, together with several Western countries and the World Bank, cut off new official credits to China after its military crackdown on student protests in June last year.

Sakamoto's remark came after Japan received tacit backing from the United States to resume lending to Beijing.

President George Bush did not oppose Tokyo's plan when he met Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu before the summit in Houston Saturday, Japanese government officials said.

Diplomats said Japan will announce as a first step resumption of "humanitarian loans," using the same definition as the World Bank in the loans it has made to China since the crackdown.

One Asian diplomat said China had intensified pressure on Japan to resume the loans since February after the World Bank resumed lending and martial law was lifted in Beijing.

Tapie buys Adidas label

PARIS (R) — Soccer-crazy millionaire Bernard Tapie, renowned in his native France for never saying no to a challenge, has scored the biggest coup of his career by clinching control of the world's leading sports label Adidas.

The flamboyant Tapie said he was taking control of the West German firm at a news conference in Rome Saturday, the eve of the World Cup final.

In his usual confident style, he pledged that the deal would be profitable this year, even though he was taking on a group roughly 15 times bigger than his own and might have to go into debt to rescue Adidas from a world sales slump.

Tapie told the French daily Liberation he had spent months patiently wooing Adidas shareholders before they agreed to transfer 80 per cent of the share capital to Tapie's holding company, Bernard Tapie Finance S.A.

Tapie fought off Japanese, West German and American contenders for control of the group, which has been owned by the Dassler family since it was founded in 1920.

Financial details of the sale were not announced.

Gorbachev makes new appeal for economic aid

HOUSTON (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is urging the world's seven richest nations to give him a hand in pepping up the Soviet economy. But diplomatic sources said Sunday that Gorbachev did not address any of President Bush's political reservations to direct U.S. assistance.

The letter, received July 4, underscored the Soviet leader's massive problems in putting perestroika to work. His attempts to adopt some free-market reforms drew strong disapproval last week from more orthodox communist leaders at the 28th

Communist Party congress in Moscow.

Bush, meanwhile, said only last week that he had "big problems" in considering direct U.S. financial aid to the Soviet Union. Still, U.S. officials have suggested the Western nations might go ahead on their own, without American interference.

The letter, the sources said, is a general appeal for assistance from the industrialised nations but it does not make specific requests. Nor, said the sources, who insisted on anonymity, did Gorbachev deal with any of Bush's objections, which include

\$5 billion a year in Soviet assistance to Marxist Cuba.

They described the letter as "gracious" and said Gorbachev had not repeated the attempt he made to French President Francois Mitterrand, the host of last July's economic summit in Paris, to have a role in the annual gathering.

Gorbachev addressed this year's letter to Bush, as the host of the annual summit meeting. But the sources said he did not make any direct appeals for change in U.S. policy or attempt to separate the United States from the other leaders.

Tunis Stock Exchange abandons open cry price

TUNIS (R) — The Tunis Stock Exchange abandoned the open cry method of setting prices Monday and introduced a system which matches bids and offers throughout the session.

Stock exchange officials said the change would stimulate business on the exchange and make it easier to convert to a computerised system in the future.

Economy and Finance Minister Mohammad Ghannouchi, opening the exchange's renovated premises Monday, said the volume of transactions remained far too low and the government was committed to the growth of the exchange.

The exchange has lowered commission rates and tried to open up the broking profession, previously dominated by big banks. Ghannouchi said an active stock exchange was essential if Tunisian companies were to stop depending for finance on long-term borrowing from banks.

The government wanted to encourage more family-dominated companies to go public, he added.

Banks advise Israel to offer El Al shares

TEL AVIV (R) — Two U.S. investment banks have advised Israel to sell 51 per cent of the state-owned national airline El Al through share offerings on local and foreign stock exchanges, the transport ministry said Monday.

A spokesman said representatives from First Boston Corp and Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.,

which were jointly contracted by the government as consultants on the sale of the debt-ridden airline, met ministry officials Sunday.

According to the proposal, Israel would offer 25 per cent of El Al's shares on U.S. and European stock exchanges and 16 per cent on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Ten per cent of the shares would be sold to the airline's employees.

El Al would have to agree to lift a seven-year-old temporary receivership before floating the shares. The airline has reported modest net profits for three straight years but is still burdened by more than \$200 million in debt.

Iran's oil output falls

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's oil output fell below three million barrels a day last month, prompting a 420,000-barrel-a-day fall in OPEC's output, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The Nicosia-based weekly quoted unidentified sources as estimating Iran's crude oil production at 2.93 million barrels a day in June, compared with 3.43 million barrels a day in May.

The weekly, in a separate article, estimated the output of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members at 23.26 million barrels a day, compared to 23.68 million the month before.

The United Arab Emirates and Kuwait are seeking higher output quotas but some other members, with Iraq in the lead, insist that quotas cannot be increased until prices are restored to the \$18 a barrel benchmark level.

The weekly said it understood that Kuwait is sticking to its policy of asking for a higher quota, but that it is indicating that this could be part of a wider tradeoff.

The tradeoff would involve higher quotas for Kuwait and other Gulf producers with high reserves and capacity, in exchange for their strict observance of the new quotas "and a consequent improvement in the price climate," the newsletter said.

Recession hits S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The South African economy, buffeted by inflation, a low gold price and foreign sanctions, is officially in a recession, the Reserve Bank has said.

"We are in a difficult period now. More difficult times lie ahead," Chris Stals, governor of the Reserve Bank, told state-run television.

The country's central bank said the gross domestic product declined by an estimated 1.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1990 on the heels of a similar decline in the final quarter of 1989.

Economists traditionally define a recession as two or more quarters of overall economic decline.

Stals said the central bank was trying to reduce inflation, which has been running at 14 per cent to 20 per cent since the mid-1980s. "There is no easy way... of curbing the economy from inflation," Stals said.

His job has been made more difficult by foreign economic sanctions, imposed by Western nations in recent years to protest the country's apartheid policies of racial segregation.

South Africa maintains a large trade surplus despite the sanctions. However, it has be-

come increasingly difficult for South African businessmen to obtain foreign capital.

Most anti-apartheid groups say sanctions should be maintained to keep pressure on the white-led government of President F.W. de Klerk.

Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, the country's largest black opposition group, has been touring Europe, the United States and Africa urging the maintenance of sanctions despite the economic hardship they cause.

Western governments so far have declined to lift sanctions despite a series of reforms by De Klerk in the past year.

The economy also has suffered from a low gold price, which was hovering around \$361 an ounce Thursday. The price recently fell below \$350 an ounce, its lowest level in years.

South Africa is the world's leading gold producer and almost half the country's foreign earnings come from gold sales.

Labour unrest, often related to the country's volatile political situation, also has damaged the economy, the Reserve Bank said. Up to 3 million blacks took part in a one day strike Monday to protest black faction fighting in the eastern province of Natal.

Profiteering dismays E. Germans

EAST BERLIN (R) — Profiteers are cashing in on German economic union, dismaying East Germans eager for a bright future in a new capitalist world.

Prices for the same goods have fluctuated by as much as 100 per cent since the July 1 monetary merger with West Germany, Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has told parliament.

He said some businesses were exploiting local monopolies and East Germans' inexperience in comparative shopping. Inflated prices for such basics as milk could not be explained by transport or other overhead costs.

"We will not permit enterprises to get rich quick on the backs of the people," said De Maiziere.

Trade ministry teams were watching prices across the country, ready to crack down on profiteers, he said. Offenders would be fined up to one million marks (\$595,000) or even closed down.

West Germany's absorption of East Germany's economy, a milestone on the road to political union expected in December, provided East Germans with hard-currency Deutschmarks and abundantly stocked shops for

the first time. Prices have soared to West German levels with the abolition of their western brethren. On top of that, unemployment is skyrocketing as brittle state industries collapse under the chill wind of Western competition.

With the seamy side of capitalism certain to overshadow any benefits in the early stages of unification, De Maiziere's government is anxious to stamp out any abuses to keep the people's faith in future prosperity.

Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl told reporters last week that some grocery outlets, many of them now in partnership with large West German chains, were charging prices far higher than normal in West Germany.

"Complaints from the people have been multiplying. The problem occurs most often in areas where people have no alternative shopping possibilities," said Pohl.

He was referring to provincial regions far from West Berlin or the now-open border with West Germany. Large numbers of East Germans flocked to West Berlin shops last week to take advantage

of lower prices. De Maiziere urged East Germans to get streetwise in their buying habits.

"We call on the people to examine price ranges carefully and snub price-gougers through their own consumer behaviour," he said. "We must all learn to shop with an awareness of market pricing."

Most East Germans have spent their crisp new Deutschmarks only on food and household necessities and saved the lion's share for a rainy day — looming unemployment.



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Monday, July 9, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	119.7 120.4
U.S. dollar	664.0 668.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	439.7 442.3
Pound Sterling	1194.2 1201.4	Dutch guilder	356.8 358.9
Deutschmark	401.6 404.0	Swedish crown	110.7 111.4
Swiss franc	474.6 477.4	Italian lira (for 100)	54.8 55.1
		Belgian franc (for 10)	195.6 196.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.8085/95	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1590/1600	Canadian dollar	
	1.6470/75	Deutschmarks	
	1.8550/60	Dutch guilders	
	1.3920/30	Swiss francs	
	33.85/90	French francs	
	5.5270/5320	Belgian francs	
	1207/1208	Italian lire	
	150.55/65	Japanese yen	
	5.9700/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.3200/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.2690/2740	Danish crowns	
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53 rebels, 10 troops die in Sri Lankan fighting

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Fifty-three Tamil separatists and 10 soldiers were killed in battles for control of Sri Lanka's northeast region, military sources said Monday.

The rebel deaths all occurred in the eastern province as troops swept the area Friday.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa said Sunday that peace talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) could resume only with international involvement.

The Tigers, fighting for an independent state for the minority Tamil community, began their latest offensive on June 11 after 14 months of peace talks.

More than 850 people including rebels, security forces and civilians have been killed in the four weeks since then.

Premadasa, in a policy speech, said the Tigers had prepared for war while talks were going on and that they had violated ceasefire agreements.

"Therefore, it is only with the involvement of the international community in a manner acceptable to us that the dialogue can recommence," he said.

Diplomats said Premadasa's intentions were not clear. "Maybe he wants an international guarantee that the Tigers will honour any future ceasefire," one diplomat said.

Another said: "It has to be a country or group of countries interested in the problem. This time he cannot certainly be referring to India."

More than 50,000 Indian troops were sent to Sri Lanka in 1987 under a pact to help quell the Tamil rebellion. They left for home in March this year after failing to disarm the Tigers.

Military sources said 22 Tigers were killed in Kanjikudichi Aru in Amparai district Friday

when security forces opened fire as the rebels tried to escape from a hideout.

At Sampar in Trincomalee 27 rebels died in a clash with troops who were clearing the area. Four guerrillas were shot dead by troops at Urani in Batticaloa during a similar operation.

Troops advancing in the northern Vavuniya district detonated a pressure mine laid by the guerrillas. Ten soldiers were killed and 22 wounded, the sources said.

In the rebel stronghold of Jaffna district in the north, guerrillas kept up attacks on a fort and an army camp.

Nearly 200 soldiers and police are trapped inside 350-year-old Jaffna Fort, which has been under siege since June 11.

Premadasa has switched from negotiating to fighting in the 7-year-old Tamil rebellion and has gained broad public support.

Thousands of people send money to a fund for soldiers' families each day and young men stand in line to join in the army. The main opposition party, which called Premadasa's conciliation a joke, has expressed support for the new policy.

After three weeks of fierce fighting, however, advancing government troops are bogged down by land mines and booby traps in the east and are pushed to the wall in the north.

At least 1,820 combatants have died in the new battle for control of the north and the east.

It began June 11 and ended a 13-month truce during which Premadasa tried to talk the Tigers into laying down their arms in exchange for limited autonomy.

The ceasefire had been tenuous, and the Tigers began accusing the government early in June of trying to wreck negotiations.

On June 11, they overran dozens of police stations in the east and captured 850 policemen. The military says the Tigers have killed at least 330 of the officers and the rest also are feared dead.

Premadasa's government established a fund to help families of the policemen and other members of the security forces who have been killed.

Sri Lankans have contributed 40 million rupees (\$1.05 million) to the fund and other donations have been received from Sri Lankans in the United States, Japan and Britain, the Defence Ministry said.

No breakdown is available, but most of the money is thought to come from the ethnic Sinhalese majority that has dominated Sri Lanka since the island republic, then called Ceylon, became independent of Britain in 1948.

At military headquarters in Colombo, thousands of young men have been lining up to join the army.

Defence Minister Cyril Ranatunga said 30,000 volunteers after newspaper advertisements appeared two weeks ago.

"We must finish this Tamil problem once and for all," said Bandaranaike Rajapakse, a 18-year-old Sinhalese waiting in line.

Anura Bandaranaike, president of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, said in parliament: "We stand solidly behind the forces today. Our hearts go out to them."

Ranjan Wijeratne, the deputy defence minister, predicted the government eventually would be able to disarm the Tigers, which Indian peacekeeping troops spent two years trying to accomplish.



Charles Taylor

Liberian rebel chief enjoys unflinching support of family

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — While Charles Taylor was driving rebel forces against the president of Liberia, his wife was driving their children to summer camp and trying to rally support for her husband's rebellion.

Type Taylor hasn't seen her husband for five years. But she is unflinching in her belief that her husband will overthrow Liberia's President Samuel Doe.

The rebels accuse Doe, who gained power of the tiny West African country in a bloody coup in 1980, of corruption, tribalism, and brutal suppression of the opposition.

Taylor, 42, and his forces invaded the West African country from the Ivory Coast on Dec. 24. Mrs. Taylor learned of the action when her husband telephoned on New Year's Day.

"I wasn't surprised or shocked," she said. "Someone had to do something. And if anyone would do it I know Charles would be the one. He's very determined and very, very intelligent."

Taylor's forces have continued to tighten their noose on the capital of Monrovia. Rebels besieging the capital rejected a ceasefire proposed by Doe and resumed fighting Sunday, rebel sources said. Doe continued to decline an American offer of safe passage out of the country.

And 8,850 kilometres away, Mrs. Taylor, 29, worked to promote her husband's cause while trying to maintain a normal life for her school-age children.

"The best I can do is to get as much publicity as I can," she said. "I am a Christian and I pray a lot. We don't want to be separated. But it's safer for us here."

The Taylors met in the United States through their involvement with Liberian Student Associations. She attended Seton Hall while he graduated from Bentley College with an economics degree.

"He always had political ambitions," she said. "He was always outspoken. He always spoke out about the injustices in Liberia and the need for democracy. If he is the next leader of Liberia, we'll have a better future. Things will be different."

The Taylors married in Liberia in 1980 and witnessed the coup that overthrew the late President William Tolbert.

"We stayed because that's our country and no matter who came into power we believed in staying there and restoring democracy," she said.

Mrs. Taylor said.

Taylor took a job in Doe's cabinet as director of the General Services Agency, but became disillusioned and was arrested for circulating subversive materials in 1981.

He continued working for Doe's government until 1982, when their house was ransacked and he was implicated in the first of many coup attempts, she said.

The Taylors returned to the United States, where Taylor was arrested in May 1984 outside Boston and accused of embezzling \$1 million from Liberia, a charge his wife claims Doe fabricated.

Sixteen months later, Taylor fled a jail in the U.S. State of Massachusetts while awaiting extradition. Mrs. Taylor said she does not know how he escaped.

"I didn't ask him how he did it," she said. "He said he did it in the 4 1/2 years between his escape and the start of the revolution. 'There are so many things Charles could have been doing at that process. Nobody knows,' she said."

Taylor was raised in an affluent family in Alhington, Liberia, one of 10 children. Their father was a commissioner of immigration and later became a judge, said Nelson Taylor, one of two Taylor brothers and three sisters living in Rhode Island.

The Taylors' two American-born children, Charen, 9, and Camille, 7, learned of their father's activities accidentally.

"I tried to keep it from them because I didn't want to confuse them," Mrs. Taylor said. But Charen read about the rebellion in the newspaper and "so they decided themselves... and they just started watching the news."

The United States and other countries have questioned Taylor's commitment to democracy and free elections. His credibility has also been damaged by reports of executions of suspected Doe supporters.

Those reports are "completely false," his wife said. "It makes you crazy because things get distorted," Mrs. Taylor said.

She said her husband is committed to holding free elections.

"If the Liberians want Charles Taylor as the leader the Liberian people will vote for Charles Taylor. For right now, he's a fighter," she said.

27 die in China floods

PEKING (AP) — Torrential rains have caused 27 deaths in three days in the northern Chinese province of Shaanxi, an official report said Monday.

The rain, which began Friday, swept through 18 cities and counties in northern Shaanxi, causing at least 300 million yuan (\$63 million) in damage, the English-language China Daily said.

As much as 193 millimetres of rain fell in parts of Shaanxi, and thousands of villagers were stranded when dikes along the

Hanjiang River broke, the report said. It quoted local officials as saying such severe flooding along the river happens only once every 20 years.

Heavy rains also fell in northeastern, northwestern and southern China, with rainfall in some places recorded at 118 millimetres in a 24-hour period during the weekend, the paper said.

In southwestern China's Sichuan province, more than 10,000 people were left homeless in Guangyuan municipality.

Militants free son of senior Kashmir official

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Militants freed the son of a senior Kashmiri Muslim official Monday after holding him hostage for three days in a propaganda exercise against India.

Journalists, alerted by an anonymous telephone call, saw two masked youths, claiming to be from the Jammu and Kashmir Students' Liberation Front (JKSLF), handing over 23-year-old Farooq Ahmad to a female relative in Srinagar.

The youths declined to discuss why Ahmad was kidnapped. One said: "He will tell you."

Later Ahmad said: "they assured me they hadn't demanded any ransom for me. They said they just wanted to show Kashmiri Muslim officials that the government of India doesn't care for them."

Ahmad said his kidnappers let him go saying his three-day captivity had proved India would not secure his release.

However Ahmad's father, Srinagar district magistrate Ghulam

Abbas, said Saturday that a telephone caller who claimed to speak on behalf of the kidnappers told him they wanted to swap Ahmad for two of their jailed colleagues and promised to call again in six hours. But there was no further call.

Ahmad's father is responsible for law and order in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state and centre of an anti-Indian revolt.

"To be honest before God and to them (the JKSLF), their hospitality was exceptionally good," Ahmad said.

He said that last Friday he was tricked by youths into getting into an autorickshaw — the only civilian vehicles on Srinagar streets since last week when other militant groups threatened to attack private cars.

He said he was blindfolded, but that the only time he was threatened was when he started to struggle and felt what he was told was a revolver pressed to his head.

U.S. embassy shelters activists after Kenyan riots

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The U.S. embassy said Monday it was sheltering a prominent human rights activist who fled a police roundup, and newspapers said at least three people were killed and dozens hurt in weekend rioting.

Nairobi was calm Monday but police were out in force in its poor suburbs.

The violence broke out after police used tear gas and gunfire to disperse a pro-democracy rally near the city centre Saturday. Security forces and bands of demonstrators clashed again Sunday.

Small groups hurled rocks at vehicles, looted shops and stoned police who tried to disperse them. Heavily armed troops moved in, and riot police used clubs on the demonstrators. Gunfire and the explosion of tear-gas canisters could be heard into the evening.

The English-language daily Nation newspaper said in Monday's editions that 10 of the injured were seriously hurt, five of them with gunshot wounds.

A heavy police presence was reported Monday in low-income residential areas ringing the capital.

Hospitals provided no official casualty figures and the government issued no statement.

The U.S. embassy said lawyer Gibson Kamau Kuria, a 1988 winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, has sought refuge at the embassy Saturday.

"He came on his own and asked for temporary refuge," the embassy said in a statement. "He

expressed a desire to leave the country. We are discussing this matter with the government of Kenya."

Kuria, 43, went into hiding Thursday following a wave of arrests in which Kenya's most prominent proponents of multiparty democracy were seized.

The U.S. statement did not comment on the status of Paul Muite, another lawyer critical of the government who also went into hiding after last week's arrests. Muite's wife and associates have said he is safe, but would not reveal his whereabouts.

The asylum bid was likely to escalate tension between Kenya and the United States, which criticised last week's detentions.

The government of President Daniel Arap Moi has already reacted angrily to U.S. suggestions that it consider allowing competing political parties. At one point, the government threatened to curtail the movements of the U.S. ambassador, Smith Hempstone.

Hempstone was the target of a bitter attack Sunday in the Kenya Times, the ruling party's newspaper. In an editorial titled: Shut Up, Mr. Ambassador, it threatened his expulsion.

Hempstone, in a telephone interview Sunday, called the editorial "an outrageous piece of work."

Moi claims if a multiparty system were established, the existence of about 40 tribes in Kenya would invite tribal-based parties, leading to ethnic divisions and even warfare.

Angolan rebels ready for ceasefire

LISBON (R) — U.S.-backed Angolan rebels said Monday they would be prepared to sign a ceasefire with the leftist government at talks due later this month in Portugal.

"UNITA reiterates its readiness for peace in Angola, and is prepared to sign a ceasefire at the next round of negotiations," the political bureau of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) said in a communique received in Lisbon.

The bureau, which met at the weekend in UNITA's bush headquarters at Jamba in southern Angola, upgraded its negotiating team which will be headed by Information Secretary Jorge Alicerces Valentim.

In two previous rounds of exploratory contacts with the Marxist government, the UNITA side was headed by its Lisbon representative, Paulo Alicerces Mangó. Diplomats said the change signalled that the rebels were taking the talks seriously.

There was no immediate reac-

tion from the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) party, which UNITA has been fighting since Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975.

Sources from both sides say the peace process is gaining momentum but admit they are still far apart on several issues, including how to monitor a truce and setting a timetable for general elections and moves towards political pluralism.

A government announcement last week that it planned to evolve towards a multi-party system brought response from UNITA, which said it wanted to hear specific proposals.

Diplomats say all parties to the talks are wary of moving too quickly, to avoid a repeat of events of a year ago, when a verbal truce brokered by Zaire quickly collapsed.

So far contacts have been fairly low-level and UNITA's upgrading of its team follows similar moves announced by the MPLA.

The peace process has been

pushed along by a flurry of diplomatic action over the past few months.

Washington and Moscow, respective allies of UNITA and the MPLA, in particular have been working behind the scenes to promote dialogue to end the war which has caused countless deaths and ruined Angola's economy.

The UNITA statement urged the two countries and Portugal and Zaire to "do sufficient work to help resolve the question of peace."

The guerrillas expressed displeasure over the MPLA's rejection of their proposal to set up "corridors of peace" to bring humanitarian aid to thousands of civilians facing famine in war zones.

Luanda last week denounced the plan, which includes a joint relief programme by Washington and Moscow, as an opportunistic use of a tragedy to gain freedom of movement.

But UNITA urged the MPLA to take the proposal seriously,

Ethnic Albanians stage peaceful march in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians staged peaceful demonstrations and strikes throughout Kosovo province Monday to protest the virtual abolition of the troubled region's autonomy.

Eyewitnesses and the Tanjug news agency said the vast majority of employees of Albanian origin in state-run companies left their jobs and peacefully paraded on the streets of Kosovo towns.

In the provincial capital of Pristina, some 200 kilometres south of Belgrade, baton-wielding security forces dispersed a group of about 1,000 people.

The "peaceful resistance protest" was organised by Kosovo's ethnic Albanian opposition groups. They are protesting last week's decision by Communist authorities in Yugoslavia's largest republic of Serbia to dissolve local governing bodies in Kosovo.

Kosovo is an administrative part of Serbia. The move virtually abolished the autonomy granted the southern province under the 1974 federal constitution.

Serbian authorities disbanded the local assembly and government after 114 ethnic Albanian assembly members announced plans to declare Kosovo's full autonomy from Serbia. Both dismantled bodies were dominated by ethnic Albanians who make up 90 per cent of the province's 1.9 million people.

On Monday, security forces patrolled the streets of Pristina, occasionally breaking up smaller groups of protesters, witnesses said.

At least 60 ethnic Albanians have died in clashes with security

forces since Kosovo's autonomy was limited by constitutional changes enacted by Serbia in March 1989.

Tanjug said Monday's protests started when ethnic Albanian employees of Pristina Radio and television left their jobs and marched through the town centre to the assembly building, where they were joined by other state employees.

Serbian police, who were present at the scene in large numbers, warned them to disperse and most of the protesters left the scene peacefully.

But security forces wielding batons broke up a crowd of about 1,000 people who refused to comply, witnesses said.

In addition to dismissing governing bodies, Serbia announced Thursday that the managers and leading Albanian journalists of the local news organisations were being replaced.

Albanian-language programmes on Pristina Radio and television were taken off the air, and the Rilindja Albania-language newspaper was banned.

The daily did not appear Monday, because police during the night impounded all the papers that were to have been circulated, Tanjug said.

Serbia considers Kosovo the cradle of its medieval kingdom. Serbian authorities allege ethnic Albanians have pressured Serbs to move out of the province and that the ethnic Albanian are seeking independence.

The Albanians, who want free elections and a multiparty system, deny the Serbian charges.

31 killed in Soviet bus-train collision

MOSCOW (R) — Thirty-one people were killed and others injured in the Soviet Union when a bus was hit by a train at a level crossing, TASS news agency reported Monday.

The accident, which occurred Sunday evening near the city of Petrozavodsk in the region of Karelia near the Finnish border, was blamed by a local official on drivers rushing home to watch the World Cup soccer final.

Twenty-one of the 60 bus passengers were killed on the spot and 10 others died later, TASS said. The agency did not give the number of injured, but said none of the train passengers had been hurt.

TASS quoted Karelian Deputy Interior Minister Boris Chukrayev as saying the red warning light was on at the level crossing, causing a large tailback of cars bringing people home from their country cottages after the weekend.

Several motorists, impatient to get home to see the World Cup final between West Germany and Argentina, drove across the railway line despite the warning and the bus driver followed them, Chukrayev said, according to TASS.

The driver, named as A. Voronko, was only slightly injured.

Chukrayev said there had recently been three other accidents at unguarded level crossings in the Petrozavodsk area, one of which had involved fatalities.

Panama wants documents held by U.S. on Noriega

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Virtually none of the money Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega allegedly made from corruption and drugs has been recovered and the United States is partly to blame, Panamanian investigators say.

A major problem, according to the investigators, is that Washington will not turn over more than 15,000 boxes of documents captured by American soldiers in the December invasion that ousted the country's de facto leader.

Noriega is jailed in the United States on federal drug charges. Panamanians say they need the booty to help an economy damaged by years of corruption and an economic embargo the United States imposed in hopes of forcing Noriega to leave peacefully.

"For Panamanian justice to be adequate, quick and effective, we need to examine the documents and computer systems captured by American troops because they contain records of the management of property and public funds by former members of the defunct defence forces," a document from the National Comptroller's Office said.

The documents and computers, which belonged to Noriega's military operations, were found at the headquarters of his special anti-terrorist unit at Fort Amador, where the United States still controls some buildings. Both nations had soldiers at Fort Amador before the invasion.

Officials of the Comptroller's Office say the United States has given Noriega's lawyers access to the documents, but not to the new Panamanian government.

Lawyers for the general deny having access and contend the papers would show the United States sanctioned some of his activities. They claim the U.S. government has many more documents than it acknowledges.

U.S. embassy statements have said negotiators from the two countries were seeking a way to give Panama "appropriate access to Noriega's documents," but that legal precedents must be considered.

Foreign Minister Julio Linarez said Panama was using "diplomatic channels" in an attempt to get the documents.

In Washington, Justice Department spokesman Doug Tillet said: "As in any other case involving large quantities of evidence, we want to ensure that the proper procedures are in place to prevent questions about handling of the documents from arising in the future."

Tillet said the United States took possession of the documents at Panama's request. Eusebio Marshosky, head of the Comptroller's Office of patrimonial responsibility, said \$25 million in assets belonging to officials of Noriega's regime had



Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega

which Noriega supplied information for years, and intelligence agencies of other nations.

Noriega and at least seven of his officers have been charged with looting the treasury. Marshosky said the delay acts in favour of people who eventually will stand trial in Panama.

He quoted the State Department as saying much of its information about Noriega came from third countries and the United States cannot give Panama the information without permission from those countries.

"Noriega's fortune does not have only one origin," Marshosky said. "It came from crimes against the national wealth, drug trafficking, money laundering, arms deals and influence peddling."

The dictator moved his money from place to place, making it difficult to determine where it came from, he said.

If Panama wants to retrieve funds from abroad, it will have to prove the money came from a specific source, such as trafficking, Marshosky said.

"The case is complicated," he said. "We have problems with evidence, problems with the searches for funds and problems with conflicts of jurisdictions. Panama is being denied evidence and lacks the money to build an effort to get the information it needs."



Lassalle to head Comedie Francaise

PARIS (AP) — Veteran actor and stage director Jacques Lassalle has been named to head the prestigious French theatre company Comedie Francaise. He succeeds Antoine Vitez, who died in April. Lassalle has directed the National Theatre of Strasbourg since 1983. In 1967 he founded the Studio-Theatre in Vitry, outside Paris, which he directed until 1983. Lassalle said he was "moved and honoured by the warm welcome" he received from the Comedie Francaise troupe. He said he would maintain the 1990-91 programme of performances planned by Vitez.

Longevity cigarette to change name

TAIPEI (AP) — Longevity — the name of Taiwan's best-selling cigarette — will have a shortened lifespan. The government is demanding that the name be changed, arguing it amounts to misleading advertising. "We all know that smoking will reduce one's lifespan rather than increase it," Vice Health Minister Lee-Ti-Yuan has said. The state-run Taiwan Tobacco and Wine Monopoly Bureau, which manufactures Longevity and 14 other brands, had earlier balked at the move, saying smokers would not buy a cigarette with an unfamiliar new name. That, the bureau said, would lead to a loss of revenue and give well-known foreign cigarettes an advantage. Bureau officials also argued that many foreign cigarettes have brand names, such as the gate to a hundred happinesses and the road to 10,000 treasures, which could cause smokers to ignore the hazards of smoking. The bureau said Longevity's name would be changed once the cabinet orders it be done. It was not clear what new name would be adopted.

Hawke to become 2nd longest-serving PM

CANBERRA (AP) — Bob Hawke becomes Australia's second longest-serving prime minister Tuesday, his 2,679th day in office. Hawke, 60, tied his predecessor, Malcolm Fraser, Monday. He still ranks far behind the 6,740 days served by Sir Robert Menzies in 1939-41 and 1949-66. Hawke took the occasion to say time should be spent working out how to attack constitutional anomalies. "I think we should use this last decade of the 1900s to see... if we can't get Australia into better shape to cope with what's going to be an extremely competitive, tough and difficult 21st century," Hawke said in a radio interview. He said the last decade of the 1900s had been spent planning the 1900 constitution, and a similar period of time should be made available to revise the document for the next century. In particular, Hawke said, federal and state governments need to address the duplication of powers and the difficulty of constitutional change, adding that Australia has 15 parliaments governing 17 million people. "It is on that basis that I say that Australia is the most over-governed country in the world," he said.

Boesak resigns after extra-marital scandal

JOHANNESBURG (R) — One of South Africa's most prominent anti-apartheid activists, Calvinistic Cleric Allan Boesak, has resigned as a minister amid reports he had an extra-marital affair, his daughter Pulane said Monday. The 44-year-old minister of the coloured (mixed-race) community's Dutch Reformed Mission Church has also offered to quit as president of the Geneva-based World Alliance of Reformed Churches. "Yes, he has resigned," Pulane Boesak said. His wife Dorothy has accused him publicly of having an affair with television producer Elna Botha, 30-year-old niece of former Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha. "This time he has gone too far. I cannot go through this again. Our marriage is over," she told the Sunday Times. Witnesses said Boesak wept after tendering his resignation in an address to his congregation in Cape Town's coloured township of Bellville South Sunday. "The whole congregation is in absolute and total shock," his co-minister, Johan Retief, told reporters. "I don't see we can do anything but accept his resignation."